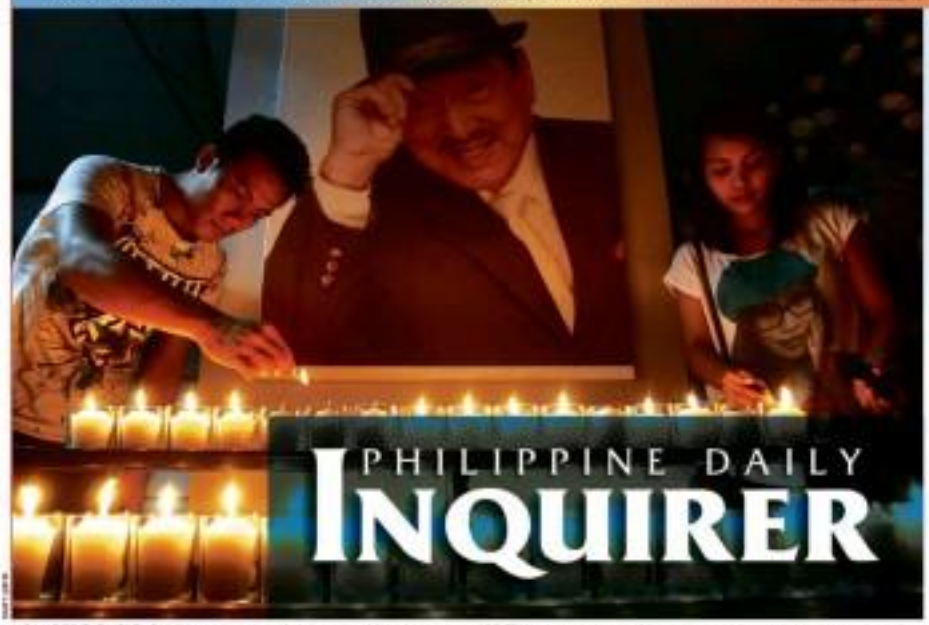
Friday, July 13, 2012 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 215 P18 | Mobile Alert: Text INQ DEBRIEFING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet



MOVING TO THE LIGHT Fans light candles in front of a large poster of their idol outside the ABS-CBN compound where a tribute to the comedy king was held on Wednesday night. The TV network was the professional home for 40 years to the most successful Filipino comic the country has ever had. The body was taken back to Heritage Park in Taguig City

P-Noy backs nat'l artist honor for comedy king

By Christine O. Avendaño and Jerome Aning

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday said he favored the conferment of the national artist award on Rodolfo "Dolphy" Quizon but there is a process that has to be observed.

"I agree with the proposal," he said, but added that a process needed to be observed and that this required, among others, that officials of concerned agencies debate and vote on this before he could approve the award.

"In truth, I only have a minor role here," Mr. Aquino said.

The remains of Dolphy, who died on the age of 83 on Tuesday after a long battle with a debilitating pulmonary disease, were transferred to the sprawling Heritage Memorial

PAGE BACKS A12

Post-mortem a roller-coaster ride for family » Dolphy a true humanitarian, says Gordon / A10

PH hits Sino duplicity in West Philippine Sea

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE President Aquino candles with Dolphy's longtime partner Zsa Zsa Padilla at Heritage Park in Taguig City on Thursday. The President has declared Friday a National Day of Remembrance to honor the nation's celebrated king of comedy who died on Tuesday night.

US calls on Asean to speak with one voice

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FOREIGN Secretary Albert del Rosario yesterday denounced Chinese "duplicity" and "intimidation" in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), souring the mood at a Southeast Asian foreign ministers' conference designed to soothe tensions.

"If Philippine sovereignty and jurisdiction can be denigrated by a powerful country through pressure, duplicity, intimidation and the threat of the use of force, the international community should be concerned about the behavior," Del Rosario told the annual ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in the Cambodian

PARTY A12

Miriam: PH like mosquito in the face of a dragon like China / A12

President surprised at Congress Cha-cha plan

By Christine O. Avendaño, Cathy C. Yamsuan and TJ Burgonio

IF IT AIN'T BROKE, don't fix it.

President Aquino yesterday said that the 6.6-percent economic growth that his administration achieved in the first quarter this year was proof enough that the Philippines could grow without altering the 1987 Constitution.

Mr. Aquino expressed concern, in spite of assurances by congressional leaders that Charter change (Cha-cha) would be limited to economic issues, that once the Constitution was opened to amendments, everything there could be subject to alterations.

Interviewed by reporters after he attended a roundtable for dinner and climate change at the SMEX Convention Center in Pasay City, the President said he was "taken aback" by statements of Speaker Jose Belmonte and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile that they

PRESIDENT A11

6 BIR officers face raps over SALN

By Raniel W. Domingo

AN OFFICER of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) in Makati is in hot water for declaring ownership of a nonexistent parcel of land in Quezon City and two residences in the tongue-presumably that turned out to be a

4 BIR, A11

Gokongwei in talks to join Okada for Vegas style, $2-B casino by bay

By Gil C. Cabacungan

THE GAMING and entertainment mecca rising on a reclaimed area south of Manila is the latest playground of the country's billionaires.

Tarpan John Gokongwei Jr. is reportedly in talks to join the Las Vegas-style project of Japanese billionaire Kazuo Okada, one of the four groups granted a license to operate a casino in the $5-billion reclamation project.

Sources in the stock market said Gokongwei's property arm, Robinsons Land Corp., has offered to run the gaming and retail operations of Okada's Tiger Resorts project, worth $2 billion, in Entertainment City, a 100-hectare property on the

GOKONGWEI A11

Ampatuans used backhoes in other killings, says witness

By Nathaniel R. Philcox

THE AMPATUANS had used backhoes to cover up a number of killings for several years, just like what they did during the 2009 Maguindanao Massacre, a prosecution witness told a Quezon City regional trial court (RTC) yesterday.

Elvie Macasar, a backhoe operator hired by the provincial government from 2002 to 2009, said he had been ordered to operate the heavy equipment to bury the alleged victims of the political family which ruled Maguindanao, even before the massacre took place.

Speaking before dozens of ac-

AMPATUANS A17

WHAT'S INSIDE

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BIR finally exceeded collection target in June / B1

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LIFESTYLE
How UP Mindanao student landed 2nd in architecture exam / D1

NEWS
Maita Gomez dies in her sleep; 64 / A17

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Dagupan	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Aparri	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Basco	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Iba	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Olongapo	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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Cubao	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Pasay City	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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Batangas	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Cavite City	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Roxas City	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Kalibo	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Cebu	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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Dumaguete	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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Surigao	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Butuan	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Iligan	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Cotabato	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy

6/42
1st 19 7
2nd 31 10
3rd 14 25

SUERTE 2x2
1st 0 9 8
2nd 8 8 8
3rd 3 6 3

SIX DIGIT
8 7 7 9 9 1

6/45 LUZ-MIN-VIS
1 6 13 17 22 32
P6,552,570.60

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
20 30 33 44 45 49
P25,272,259.20

LOTTO 3D/2D 2nd DM LOTTO, result in 4PM. PCSO photo

PNP backs probe of 'ghost' repairs

By DJ Yap and Lade B. Salmorin

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) yesterday said it is willing to cooperate with the Office of the Ombudsman's probe into the "ghost repairs" of 28 light armored vehicles that cost the government more than P400 million in 2007.

"The PNP will consider this our guide if the investigations is done well," PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Generoso Cerbo Jr. said, noting that the probe was consistent with the PNP leadership's reform agenda.

"The PNP will benefit from this because now we can correct what is wrong with the system... After all, because of the names of the vehicles [which] are used in combat situations, we are talking about the lives of our personnel on the ground," Cerbo said in a briefing at Camp Crame, noting that some of the vehicles in question were still in use by PNP forces, while others were in service.

He added that Bonoan and Inglesias management were among the 10 targets prioritized by PNP Director General Nicanor Bartolome.

Fact-finding report

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales earlier approved a fact-finding report finding PNP Director General Avelino Razon Jr., 26 PNP personnel and 12 private individuals liable for plunder, graft, malversation through falsification of public documents and violation of the procurement law.

The fact-finding probe was conducted by the Deputy Ombudsman for Military and Other Law Enforcement Officers, which subsequently filed the criminal complaints against the officials before the Office of the Ombudsman.

It also filed an administrative complaint for grave misconduct and serious dishonesty against the officials.

The case stemmed from the P406 million worth of contracts awarded to six firms in 2007 to repair and refurbish 209 (Old) Light Armored Vehicles, which was found to have involved "gross violations" of Commission on Audit regulations, including the repairs costing more than 20 percent of the original acquisition price.

The fact-finding investigation found that there were ghost deliveries of engines and transmissions and no records of source materials to show that engines and parts of the armored vehicles were actually replaced.

Dubious procurement

It also found something dubious in the procurement process, owing to the lack of bidding documents, possible bidders, pre-procurement conferences, pre-bid conference and post-qualification process.

The fact-finding committee also noted the "haste" with which the claims were processed and payments made in January 2007, "even before the list of the refurbished units were yet to be delivered seven months later."

Bonoan earlier denied that there were ghost repairs and said the light armored vehicles were really refurbished. He also denied colluding with suppliers during the bidding.

He added that he believed his subordinates in the PNP's bids and awards committee had acted in good faith, and that it was only acting in the PNP's best interest.

Others charged

Also to be investigated are: former Deputy Director General Reynaldo Wycoco; Director Charlemagne Alejandrino; Director Dela Paz and Geary Barias; former Chief Supt. Ray Rodeven; Chief Supt. Mario Rodrigo; former Chief Supt. Teodorico Lopez; Sr. Supt. Emmanuel Gacho; Sr. Supt. Reno Lorenz Gallardo; Supt. Chief Insp. Rodolfo Pacia; Supt. Edgar Pasaol; Supt. Henry Rodriguez; SPO4 Victor Pauldan; Supt. Josefina Dionisio; Sr. Supt. Victor Agustin; Supt. Wharlito Talusan; SPO4 Alfredo Landay; Sr. Supt. Reinier Espino; PNP Accounting Division Chief Antonio Bernaca; PNP Resident Supervising Auditor James Serrano; Technical Audit Specialist Jesse Quiambao; unnamed personnel of Delta Foreign, Alet Barrameda, Patricia Hope, Maria Teresa Savoie and Ramy Bandle; and 12 private individuals who acted as suppliers/bidders.

Morales formed a special panel of investigators to lead the probe, which was given 45 days to complete its task.

Its members are Acting Director Manuel Soriano Jr., Julita Calderon, Maria Theresa Lee-Bañola, Fenerina Francia and Myla Yecat Rodrigo.

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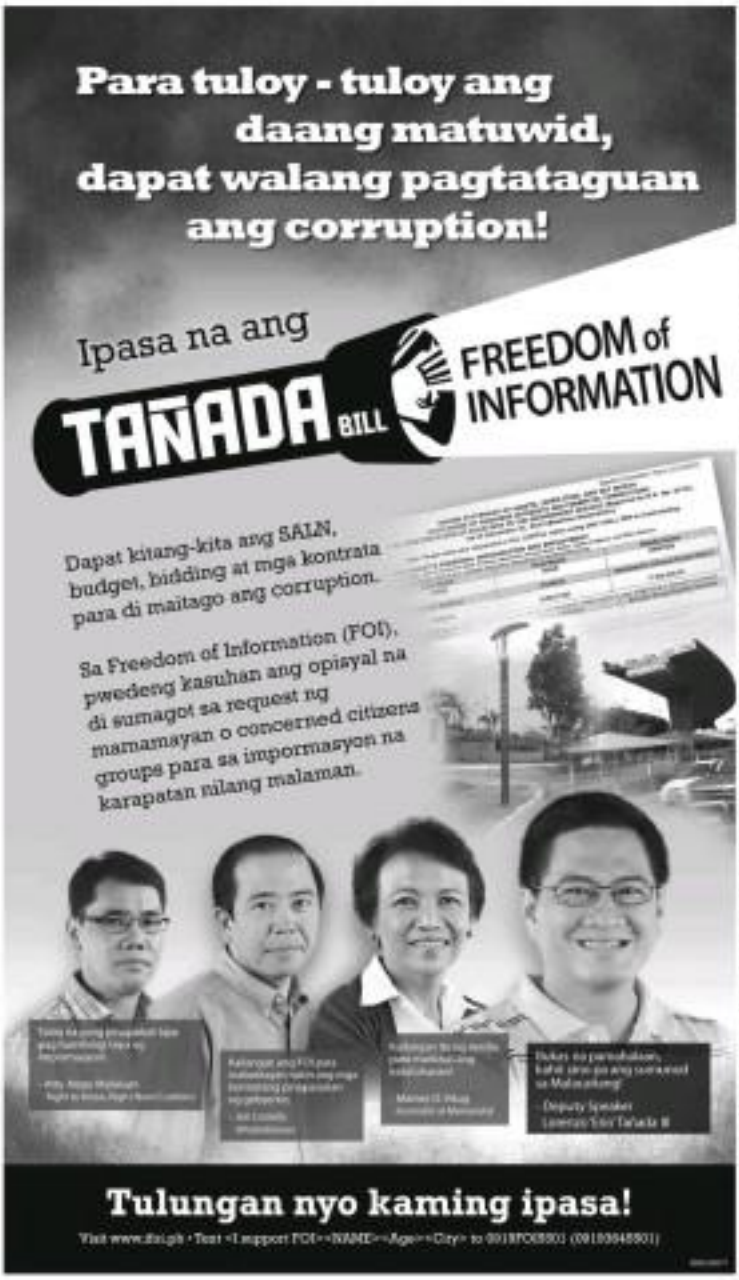

De Lima faces dilemma in SC, says Miriam

WILL Justice secretary who once dared Bali for openly defying a Supreme Court temporary restraining order (TRO) for SC to heed the judiciary?

Bali will be the issue against Justice Secretary Leila De Lima in the event that she is picked to replace ousted Chief Justice Renato Corona, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said yesterday.

Santiago acknowledged that De Lima had likewise criticized Corona in public, which apparently took place until the TRO controversy and during the four-month impeachment trial.

"Well, if I were the ex-Chief Justice, I would commit suicide. I think that would be a major motive in my memory because I really cannot see that kind of mentality using the Supreme Court," she said in jest at the weekly forum media forum.

Santiago said De Lima might eventually have to address the issue when she is interviewed by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC), along with 21 other applicants for Chief Justice.

"Let's see her explain that because if she becomes chief justice and under her, the Supreme Court, or even a branch of the Supreme Court, issues a TRO and someone refuses to obey it using the same grounds, then she'll certainly be in a dilemma," she said.

De Lima is scheduled to be interviewed first by the JBC at the Supreme Court's Session Hearing Room in Manila on July 16. Interviews will be open to live media coverage, a first in the selection process.

Santiago, a constitutional law expert and former trial court judge, was among the fiercest critics of De Lima's decision to ignore the Supreme Court TRO late last year.

Back then, the high court allowed former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now Pampanga representative, to seek medical treatment abroad in the absence of any case filed against her.

The Commission on Elections, with the assistance of the Department of Justice, eventually raided an electoral sabotage case against Arroyo, who was later ordered arrested by a Pasay judge.

"I will say that my eyebrows rose to the ceiling when I heard the secretary of justice outright refused to obey a TRO because the residents are taught that when the Supreme Court issues a TRO, it's like God issuing a mandate... you have to obey immediately," Santiago recalled.

The senator said if the Aquino administration was also facing a "dilemma" in choosing the next Chief Justice. The President had openly campaigned for Corona's removal.

"If it appoints a person too closely associated with the President, then people will say the impeachment trial was just a molehill... It was simply meant to remove somebody in favor of somebody better controlled by Malacañang and there is one considerable doubt on whether the man was really guilty," she said.

"But at the same time, the President will want to have control, if possible, of the Supreme Court. That's the dream of all presidents," Christine F. Figueroa

Binay wants NBI, BI to explain

By Tina G. Santos

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay said yesterday he would ask the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to explain if reports that boxing developer Eddie Lee had managed to leave the country were true.

Binay cited newspaper reports quoting Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo as saying that Lee, who is facing unclaimed funds charges, may have already left the country to avoid criminal prosecution.

"I was surprised when I read that in the papers this morning. I will not allow that to happen because the victims of Lee are demanding justice," he said during the 55th birthday celebration of his son, Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City.

"That's why I'm sending a letter to the NBI and BI to ask them if the reports were true. I think an investigation should be conducted to determine how and under what circumstances he was able to leave," Binay said. "I am no longer comfortable the failure of the authorities to arrest him, [who] more than outrage regarding trustees of his, but for him to be able to leave is another story."

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Ex-DBP chair acquitted in loan guarantee case

A FORMER chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines was acquitted of graft for giving a P5.88 million loan guarantee to the Sta. Inez Mining and Steel Corp., which was allegedly not backed by sufficient collateral.

The Sandiganbayan Third Division ruled yesterday that former DBP Chair Rafael Sison did not give undue favors to the mining firm when he guaranteed its loan with Germany-based Deutsche Bank in 1980.

Sison was accused of giving undue favors to Sta. Inez Mining and Steel Corp. (SIMSC) by guaranteeing its loan with the German bank that had insufficient collateral. Because SIMSC's proposed project was not completed, it was unable to pay its loans to creditor and the government had to shell out the P588,577 million payment.

"There is absolutely no evidence to show that in approving and signing the Guaranty and the Amended Guaranty in favor of Deutsche, the accused with manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence, gave unwarranted benefits to SIMSC, thereby causing the government undue injury in the amount of P588,577,000," the judge-ponente said.

The Sandiganbayan said that even if the government had suffered an injury by having to pay for the loan, Sison could not be held liable based on the circumstances in the case.

"The decision of the accused as a member of the Board of Governors of DBP to approve the loan was based on his considered judgment, taking into consideration the Evaluation Report presented to the Board, and not for some malicious and personal interest," it said.

It noted that the non-completion of the SIMSC's project was not the fault of the DBP or the mining firm, but was due to circumstances beyond their control.

It also said the prosecution's evidence consisted only of Sison's signature on the guaranty and amended guaranty, which he signed because of a DBP board resolution allowing him to do so. It was also safe to assume that Sison was among those who had approved the loan recommendation to the mining firm, it added.

But there were not enough to show that Sison had violated the law. The prosecution also failed to prove any other act that would show he enjoyed unduly favored SIMSC.

It did not agree that Sison's "malevolent purpose" to guarantee the loan could be seen from the fact that the mining firm was undercapitalized, its loan unsecured and that its proposed project unfeasible. The DBP Management had studied and evaluated the proposed financial accommodations to SIMSC before recommending its approval, it noted.

The court also said it was not convinced that the loan guarantee that the DBP extended to SIMSC did not have sufficient collateral. The mining firm was also not undercapitalized, it said.

The prosecution had argued that the mining firm's only put up P369.39 million as future assets, so collateral for the P588 million loan guarantee.

According to the court, there were other conditions set by the DBP, such as requiring SIMSC's president to sign the accountabilities in his personal capacity, thus making him liable along with the firm. Judith Salaveria

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P104M in Quedancor funds missing, COA reports

By Lolit B. Sotsorin

THE QUEDAN and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp. (Quedancor) has so far failed to account for P104.5 million from the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF), prompting concerns from the commission on audit (COA) that the money could have been misused.

In its 2011 report on the Quedancor, the COA also found unauthorized expenses charged to the fund, including refined and fuel allowances.

The ACEF is intended to help the agricultural and fisheries sectors become globally competitive. The government provided Quedancor with a P1 billion ACEF special loan fund to be lent out to farmers and fisherfolk throughout the country.

The COA said Quedancor had only accounted for P895.5 million of the ACEF fund.

"Failure to account for the P104.5 million loan fund might indicate misuse of government funds," the audit agency said.

It also said Quedancor failed to submit a terminal report on the project when it ended in 2008.

In its response to the COA, Quedancor said it was in the process of accounting for the borrowers of the P104.5 million and determining the status of the collection. It said it was already completing the terminal and liquidation report.

According to the COA, the records on the program's implementation were not immediately available, making it impossible to verify the use of the funds.

It said it also found that the agency has not returned the fund to the Department of Agriculture after the program was completed in 2010, as required in the memorandum of agreement.

The COA also said that the expenses of the Quedancor program management committee continued to be charged to the ACEF special fund even after the termination of the program.

Among the expenses charged were collateral allocations, travel expenses, fuel consumption, other operating expenses and the salaries of the ACEF national technical secretariat and of two Quedancor employees.

₱1.2-B PNP GUN DEAL

Lowest bidder disqualified

By DJ Yap

THE COMPANY that submitted the lowest bid for a ₱1.2-billion firearms procurement of the Philippine National Police (PNP) has been disqualified for failing to comply with documentary requirements.

The bid, submitted by a joint venture of R. Espinosa and Dr Israel Sibayan Inclusive, the manufacturer of Jericho pistols, was declared ineligible by the technical working group of the PNP's bids and awards committee after it failed to meet the conditions, said PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Generoso Cerbo Jr.

Cerbo said Epimeh (not its pistols as previously reported) did not comply with the requirement to submit a certificate of bid security from the Insurance Commission and another certificate authorizing the incumbent of foreign investments from the Philippine embassy in Tel Aviv.

"The BAC (bids and awards committee) resolution is still for signature by the members today (Thursday) but the official letter to the company will also be sent today," Cerbo told a press briefing yesterday.

He said the company that submitted the next lowest bid, a joint venture between Imat Trade and Glock Asia Pacific, would undergo the post-qualification process. If it passes the technical requirements, its pistols will have to undergo a 20,000-round stress test.

Epimeh had submitted the lowest bid of ₱971 million, which would have saved the PNP more than ₱220 million.

Imat Trade came in second with ₱998 million, while Eidos and its partners were third with ₱1.06 billion. Arms Corp. of the Philippines was fourth with a bid of ₱1.187 billion.

Espinosa's price sample lower the PNP's unit price of ₱20,000 for each pistol to just ₱16,854 apiece, while Imat Trade's would lower it to ₱16,859.94, a difference of just slightly above ₱400.

The procurement, one of the biggest by the PNP in recent years, is for the purchase of almost 60,000 pistols to be used by police officers. It is seen to fill 100 percent of the PNP's short firearms requirement.

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5-hectare UP land eyed for Senate site

By Julie M. Aurelio

A PIECE of land stretching about five hectares owned by The University of the Philippines (UP) is being eyed as a possible new home for the Senate.

This property is located behind the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), formerly Philcoa, buildings near the Arboretum and the forest gasoline station on Commonwealth Avenue.

UP officials said the property should serve the needs of the Senate, which supposedly requires at least five hectares of land.

"The talks are still preliminary. Once the Senate committee decides, then they will come back to UP to present their proposal," said Prospero de Vera, the university's vice president for public affairs.

De Vera said UP officials have had one formal meeting with a group of senators to discuss the proposed transfer of the Senate to a portion of the 493-hectare Diliman campus.

But there have been a few informal discussions on the subject during deliberations on the budget of the state university, he said.

Other locations

Various opposition lists have been made for a possible location—one of them another UP property where the Asian Institute of Tourism (AIT) and the Philippine Social Science Center (PSSC) now stand—but it is deemed that the property behind the PCA might just be the most feasible.

"It would be also strategic if the Senate moves there, because it may serve as a boundary for the UP property, given the informal settlers encroaching on our land," De Vera said.

And should plans to construct a Metro Rail Transit (MRT) line push through, the nearest station to the proposed Senate building would be the PCA station, he noted.

Another university official, Danilo Nuno, the head of the UP System Information Office, said the tentative site will not include the Arboretum, a protected forested area.

Nuno noted, however, that the proposed site behind the PCA is occupied by 1,000 squatters.

But De Vera said that is a solvable issue that could be addressed by the Senate when it does decide to transfer to UP Diliman.

De Vera also clarified that the AIT and PSSC site, also located along Commonwealth Avenue, was not being considered as an option.

He explained that the area of the property, aside from being too close the fire hazards that the Senate requires, is too small and does not a feasible location.

Besides, the AIT property is already being leased to developer Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), he said.

"From the legal perspective, UP cannot lease out land which it already entered by an existing lease," De Vera said.

Under its 2008 Charter, the state university cannot sell any of its land nor property. It can only lease, as in the case of ALI and other government agencies holding office on UP land.

Other government offices housed in the Diliman campus are the Commission on Higher Education, the Commission on Human Rights, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and the Quezon City Police District headquarters.

No details of the proposal have been discussed, but De Vera said the Senate may be able to lease the land from UP at a cheaper rate as it is assumed the property will not be used for commercial purposes.

Proposal needed

The Senate has to make a proposal to be discussed in the Board of Regents, the university's highest decision-making body, before any transfer plans are approved.

"The proposal will come from the Senate. The ball is in their court," De Vera said.

Student regent Clave Arpadilla, who earlier opposed the Senate transfer to UP, said consultations will be made with UP constituents, including students, employees and faculty, among others.

"We were assured that this will be ensured through the proper channels, but of course we would like to see the proposal first," he said.

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- Tickets are valid for travel within 90 days from the reservation and all travel must be completed by 15 December 2012. Unlimited transfers in Manila's permitted. Passenger name and the name on the ticket must be identical.
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NO RUNNING MATE YET

Binay: Too early for politics

By Tina G. Santos and Cynthia D. Balana

VICE President Jejomar Binay yesterday said it was too early to speculate about any possible tandems in the 2016 presidential elections.

"It's too early to talk about politics at this point. I still have a lot of things to do, projects to implement to be able to fulfill my promise that I will serve the people," said Binay, a presumptive candidate for president in 2016.

"If I reveal now who my running mate is, I'll be earning enemies this early. 2016 is still too far away, many things could still happen," he said.

Chiz or Jinggoy

According to Binay, it was still too early for him to consider either Senators Francis Escudero or Jinggoy Estrada for his running mate though he said Estrada was one of those who have indicated to him his interest in the vice presidency in 2016.

"Chiz is one of those who hinted of his interest [in running for vice president], but I am not considering anyone as my running mate at this time," he said.

Estrada himself earlier dismissed talk that he would be Binay's running mate in 2016, saying such speculation was "too premature."

Escudero is widely expected to be Binay's running mate as he was among those cited for the latter's narrow victory over Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas in 2010.

Meanwhile, the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) of Binay and deposed Pampanga Governor Ed Panlilio yesterday hobnobbed on the classic of House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte that the contemplated Liberal Party-bloc crossfires Party Nationalist People's Coalition standing would be a formidable team in the 2013 national elections.

'David and Goliath'

Nacionalista Rep. Toby Tiangco, the UNA secretary general, described the impending clash of these two coalitions as a fight between "David and Goliath" but only in terms of numbers but also in terms of resources, since government resources are at the disposal of the administration coalition.

Tiangco expressed some annoyance at Belmonte's chiding the UNA for trying itself as the team to beat in 2013 despite its small numbers in the House and Senate, as well as in local governments, compared with the ruling Liberal Party and its coalition partners.

"All politics is local. The local candidates will be the ones to deliver the votes for the national candidates. We will not sacrifice our local leaders and candidates just to achieve the perception of national strength through sheer number," Tiangco said.

Calungsod canonization 100-day countdown starts

By Jerome Aning

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) is intensifying its preparations for the canonization of Blessed Pedro Calungsod in Rome this October.

Calungsod will become the second Filipino saint, after St. Lorenzo Ruiz who was canonized in 1987.

Tomorrow, the archdioceses of Cebu and Manila will launch a 100-day countdown for the Oct. 21 canonization.

In Cebu City a Mass at the Minor Basilica of Santo Niño at 2:30 p.m. followed by a motorcade at 4 p.m. will kick off the countdown. At Paseo de Dewata, a countdown clock and an image of Blessed Pedro will be unveiled.

On the same day, Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle will preside over the countdown at the 1st Catholic Social Media Summit in Marikina City.

The CBCP has formed an ad hoc commission for the canonization, with its promotions and public information cluster tapping both traditional and social media to spreading news about the event.

An official website (http://pedrocalungsod.org/) as well as Facebook and Twitter accounts have been launched for the event. Facebook visitors, mostly from Visayas and Mindanao, have reached 100,000. Promotions are still being intensified in Mindanao.

Cloribe Seltran of the special media committee said the social media campaign aims to target the young.

"Last week, we started the social media activity which is the '5 like thirty week' campaign. This campaign targets 100,000 likes on Calungsod's Facebook page," Seltran said.

He added that the body also intends to hold forums about Calungsod's life and martyrdom by bringing a "Bisita sainsan" to schools and parishes where the would-be saint may be discussed.

Calungsod, a young catechist who worked with the Jesuits at the young age of 14 and martyred in the Marianas at the age of 17, should serve as an inspiration not only to the youth but also to the clergy said Fr. Cleto Manio VI, rector of Cebu Shrine.

Smuggling raps vs 3 importers

By Marlon Ramos

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) yesterday charged three importers, their customs brokers and a lawyer with smuggling before the Department of Justice, accusing them of trying to bring in rice and assorted chemicals worth P18 million without the necessity of import permits.

Customs Commissioner Rozlly Biazon said the move by his office was "a clear signal to all smugglers that the Philippines is not a place for their business."

He added, "Those attempts to bring in to the country illegally imported rice are not intended to fill in a demand or shortage, but simply to exploit the high demand for rice to the detriment, of course, of our local farmers.

"The days of smugglers at the BOC, especially those involved in the illegal importation of agricultural products, are numbered."

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BUNDLED INQUIRER editor-in-chief JV Rafino looks at the Huawei-developed during the soon-to-be-launched Mediapad Inquirer Digital Edition/Newsstand bundle. Also in the photo is Huawei Technologies marketing manager Emerald Obregón.

Inquirer-tablet bundle out soon

By JV Rafino

INQUIRER Group employees get a first look at the business group's soon-to-be-launched tablet-Digital Newsstand bundle, which combines a high-end Huawei MediaPad Android tablet with access to over 30 local and foreign newspapers, magazines and e-books on the group's Digital Newsstand.

The bundle makes it possible for Inquirer readers to experience the ease of getting the full content of the Inquirer Group's print publications on a tablet for easy reading during commutes and when traveling, according to JV Rafino, the Inquirer Group's director for mobile.

In addition to the full content of the periodicals (many of which are not available on the group's web portal, Inquirer.net), the Inquirer Group's Android app—pre-installed on the tablet—also makes sharing content easy via Twitter, Facebook and e-mail. Read-aloud capability and several icon levels also make the periodicals easier to consume.

Inquirer Group employees can order the Android tablet through an installment plan. The Inquirer Group is currently in talks with a major bank to make the tablet-digital bundle available to the public on easy monthly payment terms. It is also looking for telecommunication partners for bundled data connectivity and advertisers interested in the Digital News-stand's video and direct-response options.

For inquiries regarding the tablet-Digital Newsstand bundle and how to be among the first to receive your own, the bundle becomes available, contact inquirer.digital@inquirer.com.ph.

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COA REPORT

Housing agency ₱12B in the red

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE HOME Guaranty Corp. (HGC), the state entity whose task it is to provide shelter for the homeless, and the impoverished, has accumulated a ₱12-billion deficit and may be unable to accomplish its work, according to the Commission on Audit (COA).

The government corporation had an accumulated deficit of ₱12.771 billion by the end of 2011, the COA said in an 2011 report on the HGC.

It said the HGC would need to borrow back the disposition of its foreclosed assets and renewed debt to operate from scratch in the capital markets as it would only lose more money and generate deficits from the enormous financial charges.

The COA said the HGC's projects are actually becoming shelter debts.

Not viable

"HGC's accumulated deficit of ₱12.771 billion continues to cast doubt on its ability to provide a viable shelter program for the homeless and underprivileged sectors of society," the COA said.

However, the HGC remains upbeat about its problems, telling the COA that despite its accumulated deficit, it remains confident to a guarantee because it performed relatively better in 2011, increasing its net income by ₱4.23 percent from operations.

It also said that it was negotiating with the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance for a large capital infusion, but admitted that fund allocations from the national government have been limited to P500 million to join "streams of financial resources."

The HGC also said the approval of years late applications of client banks has been withheld because of delays in the paperwork.

According to the audit agency, HGC's loans and mutations was affected by defaults on guaranteed mortgages, which went up significantly during the Asian economic crisis that began in 1997. It said the claims on HGC guarantees arose up from ₱2 billion in 1998 to to ₱7 billion in 2000.

Toll on liquidity

"The major toll on HGC's liquidity position as a great majority of these guaranty calls were performed on flagship projects in the 1,000s funded through the floatation of investment on notes," it said.

It also said the economic crisis left the government corporation with many foreclosed or acquired assets, which could not be disposed of immediately.

The HGC was unable as well to get regular or sufficient funds from the national government, prompting it to turn to the capital markets to raise funds through the floatation of investment bonds.

A zero-coupon bond is a bond bought at a price lower than its face value, with the face value repaid at the time of maturity. It does not make periodic interest payments, or have so-called "coupons," hence the term zero-coupon bond. When the bond reaches maturity, its investor receives its par, or face, value.

The deep discount bonds, however, did not turn out to be the HGC's choice. The COA said HGC has been losing money since 2002, when it first issued the zero-coupon bonds. It said the prepaid financial charges resulted by the bond floatation caused the corporation to lose money.

Slow property sales

It also said the HGC could not immediately dispose of some of its assets because of problems with squatters, the so-called informal and illegal settlers, which slowed down the sale of the properties.

The COA said HGC's losses net or cash was recorded in 2004 when it went down to ₱5.950 billion. Its net worth went up in 2011 to ₱4.691 billion, mostly from deferred capital crediting of land from the Urban Mass projects.

The HGC has also not involved in full development of region Bataan to ₱750 billion as mandated. It shelves for the only ₱13.87 billion was paid up because the national government is financially distressed, according to the COA.

GOOD FOR ALL

Govs back mining EO

THE EXECUTIVE Order (EO) on Mining is "good for all stakeholders" since it proposes to develop the Philippines' mineral resources with emphasis on social acceptability and strong safeguards on environmental protection, the president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) said on Wednesday.

"The policy is clear. The rule governing the mining industry itself is based with efforts to protect and preserve the environment," said Oriental Mindoro Gov. Alfonso "Boy" Umali, LPP second president of the LPP.

Still stakeholders need to benefit from this policy directives," he said, directing the development of social responsibility and sovereignty in localities where mining activities are operational.

In a press statement, Umali thanked President Aquino for introducing the reforms and the local government units to preferred areas would cooperate.

Umali cited provisions of the EO, which he described as "highly commendable." Among them are Section 11 on the measures to improve and regulate small scale mining activities and Section 12, on supplementary fiscal instruments with the Local Government and national laws.

Umali also lauded two other provisions, namely Section 13 creating a one-stop shop for mining applications and procedures, and Section 14 improving transparency of the mineral industry.

Among other things, the EO ordered the review initiated by mining and not up a multi-stakeholder team that would review the performance of existing mining operations.

The EO created the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), whose members include the Bureau of Local Government of the Philippines, which is the umbrella organizations of the leagues of governors, city mayors, municipal mayors, and barangay and other local officials. Umali is concurrent head of Ulap.

"The creation of the MICC is most welcome," Umali said, adding that the council should include individuals with technical expertise and in-depth understanding of mining operations.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday - July 13, 2012
14th Week in Ordinary Time
Ferial

1st Reading: Hos 14:2-10

Thus says Yahweh: Return to your God Yahweh, O Israel! Your sins have caused your downfall. Return to Yahweh, and say to him: words. Say to him, "Oh you who show compassion to the fatherless forgive our debt, be appeased. Instead of bulls and sacrifices, accept the praise from our lips. Assyria will not save us. We forget all about the horses. We will not ever again call out "Our gods" to the work of our hands." I will heal their waywardness and love them as I will no longer be my anger has turned away from them.

I shall be like dew to Israel like the lily will he blossom. Like a cedar he will send down his roots. His young shoots will grow and spread. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance, like that of Lebanon. They will dwell in my shade again, they will flourish like the grain, they will blossom like a vine, and their fame will be like Lebanon wine. What more should Ephraim have to do with idols, when I it I who hear him and take him prompt?

I am like an evergreen cypress says all your fruitfulness comes from me. Who is wise enough to grasp all this? Who is discerning enough to understand it? Straight are the ways of Yahweh. The just walk in them, but the sinners stumble.

Gospel: Matthew 10:16-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Look, I send you out like sheep among wolves. You must be clever as snakes and innocent as doves. Be on your guard with regard to people, for they will hand you over to their councils. You will be brought to trial before rulers and kings because of me, and so you may witness to them and the pagans.

"But when you are arrested, do not worry about what you are to say and how you are to say it, when the hour comes, you will be given what you are to say, for it is not you who will speak, but it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking in you.

"Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child; children will rise against parents and have them put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever stands firm to the end will be saved.

"When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. For sure, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

Reflection

We consider intelligence and the ability to plan. We are impressed by planning, even for the afterlife as with Alfred Hitchcock's suspense movies. But in just a moment of crisis, he failed. If I don't have to plan everything, it means that I do not trust myself to react correctly in some hasty situation. But what makes me think I can do it better even before the situation has even arisen? How should I know what is my response to be? I have not even seen the new complication planning creates that I will be ignorant of in the future. How foolish! And yet, I do always this. We have to learn to trust God in the present moment.

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PH hits Sino duplicity in West Philippine Sea

From page A1

capital of Phnom Penh, according to unofficial statements.

But Manalo is to refer this to a recent standoff between Chinese and Philippine ships at a niche outcrop called Scarborough Shoal (Panatag Shoal), which is claimed by both sides.

Blowing them needs to "speak with one voice," Yi has said of Hillary Clinton joined Del Rosario in urging Beijing to take a common stand on the Scarborough dispute and on other Chinese incursions in the West Philippine Sea.

Clinton made the statement on Monday during an Asean-US meeting, which she and Del Rosario both chaired.

Threat to peace

Clinton warned the side for a multilateral meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the Asean ministerial meeting.

Several Asean governments have expressed strong alarm over China's moves in the disputed waters in the West Philippine Sea, noted a "threat to the peace and stability" in the Asia Pacific region.

"If left unchecked, the increasing tensions [in] it is being generated in the process could further escalate into physical hostilities which no one wants," Del Rosario said.

"The same is [a] potent jeopardy for the sustainable economic dynamism of our region which was made possible by the relative peace and stability that prevailed in the past years."

Chinese resistance

The Obama administration pressed Beijing to accept the proposed code of conduct for resolving territorial disputes.

The EU secretariat effort has faced resistance from China but has coalesced Washington to use a border countries in southeast Asia.

China claims virtually the entire West Philippine Sea and has insisted in entirely new city to administer it, sparking deep concern from rival claimants. The sea hosts about a third of the world's cargo traffic, has rich fishing grounds and is believed to store vast oil and gas reserves.

At the Asean-US meeting, Clinton said it would be best for the regional bloc to "closely unfurther to position" on the conflicted waters sought.

"The point is, peace, prosperity, the maintenance of the economic dynamism of our region which was made possible by the relative peace and stability that prevailed in the past years."

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"What ought to a challenge today be some of the Asean members, if left unaddressed by all of Asean, would lead tomorrow to issues that may become problems for other Asean members," Clinton warned, according to a press statement issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

Code of conduct

Clinton was obviously alluding to the tensions generated by the disputes over the Spratly Islands involving China, Taiwan and four Asean members—the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and Brunei. Asean members Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, Laos and Cambodia.

According to Clinton, Philippines "looks to Asean and chairman wants to provide leadership on this issue, and recognizes the historical role it has had in find consensus and advance a common Asean position."

"Asean needs to meet its own goals and standards and be able to speak with one voice on issues, limiting the aspects," she said, also urging the group to "complete a regional code of conduct as it timely fashion."

Del Rosario said "the current situation in the West Philippine Sea deserves urgent attention from items because it has a direct impact on unimpeded commerce and freedom of navigation in the region."

"The adherence of all countries in the region to a set of fair and transparent rules, as embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, will ensure the greater mutual trust and respect in the region," he said.

Baseless claims

In April, Del Rosario asked Asean to take a stand on the Philippine dispute with China over Panatag Shoal and other Chinese incursions in the disputed sea.

In a rare message to the bloc, Del Rosario said "[I]t is not just the Philippines, will ultimately be negatively affected if we do not take a stand."

"Since the freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce in the West Philippine Sea are of great importance to many nations, all should consider what China is endeavoring to do in the Scarborough Shoal in order to pursue its so-called full sovereign rights over the entire West Philippine Sea on the basis of a massive claim, using a historical record that is, at best, baseless," Del Rosario pointed out.

The nine-dash claim is China's delineation of its territory in the West Philippine Sea, with nine dashes on the map that enclose all of the Spratlys archipelago.

Closer US-China ties

Yesterday, arriving across from Yang Jiechi at a long table to a grand hall each characterizes, Clinton stressed the different ways Washington and Beijing solve cooperating. Yang spoke of building an even closer US-Chinese relationship.

Neither side spoke about the West Philippine Sea while reporters were allowed in the room.

"The United States has no territorial claims there and we do not take sides in disputes about territorial or maritime boundaries," Clinton told the Foreign ministers.

"But we do have an interest in freedom of navigation, the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for internationally law and unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea," she added.

Asean countries should "work collaboratively and diplomatically to resolve disputes without coercion, without intimidation, without threats and without use of force," Clinton added.

Asean's 10 members announced earlier this week that they had drafted a set of rules to govern joint seismic and navigation, and procedures for when governments disagree. But China is not a member of the group and hasn't agreed to anything.

China's willingness

A senior US administration official said Yang, in his discussion with Clinton, cautiously signaled China's willingness to negotiate with other Asean nations on disputed claims.

The talks could start as early as September, said the official, who briefed reporters on the meeting on condition of anonymity.

For the United States, the shifting diplomacy should could be a key test of the Obama administration's efforts to "pivot" American power toward the world's most populous continent.

Just speaking out on the subject already has helped the EU deepen ties with Vietnam, and relations are warming with officials government in the region.

Fear of conflict

Many observers fear the complicated web of maritime disputes could spark a violent conflict.

The standoff between China and the Philippines to Panatag Shoal began in April when the Philippines accused Chinese fishermen of poaching endangered species in the area. Both sides sent government ships to the area though both have since withdrawn the vessels. With a report from AFP and AP

Miriam: PH like mosquito in the face of a dragon like China

By Cecily C. Tarrazas

A "MOSQUITO" like the Philippines needs not only to unite its opinion in dealing with China in dealing with their territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

But, Miriam Defensor-Santiago advised this simple yet smart solution, saying she was afraid disunity is challenging a few friends to ask the help of or allies in dealing with the dragon.

"We neither have money nor weapons. Our only choice is to depend on the western allies. Depending on the very we must know this situation, we must keep in mind that our allies need something from us, just as we need something from them," Santiago said at the weekly Kapihan sa Senado.

Relations between the Philippines and China have been severely tensioned by their territorial claims over Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal), off the Zambales coast and over parts of the Spratlys island chain now controlled by Beijing.

Santiago suggested that the Philippines ask allies like the United States, Australia, Singapore and South Korea "that it would be in their best interests to protect the South China Sea from incursion by China."

A dragon and gorilla

Santiago raised the point after noting that the Chinese government has stressed that the Philippines "must accept that both South China Sea belongs to China."

"You don't want to give China power over a ... maritime territory that represents 10 percent of the fisheries catch of the entire world. In the sea has other natural resources," she said.

"Let us tell the Filipino people that we would lose freedom of navigation over maritime commerce if China is able to effectively its desire to own the entire South China Sea," she added.

"China is, to put it bluntly, a gorilla ... Sth are mosquitoes and China is a dragon. Mosquitoes just buzz around your ear, you clap them and they're dead. ... But mosquitoes in numbers, they cannot engage in an arms race with the Chinese. If we lack the power, then we use our brains," the senator said.

Armed attack doubted

Santiago, a former chief of the former foreign relations committee, supported Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario's request to the United States for surveillance assets and naval patrols that would allow the Philippines to monitor Chinese territorial incursions.

"But we don't see equipment

or ... that would lead to an armed attack," she said.

Santiago said that if one read carefully the Mutual Defense Treaty, "the US will come to the Philippines' defense only in case of armed attack."

"That's why China will move under an armed attack so that it can never be treated of hostility ... so it remains a matter that would trigger the implementation of the treaty," she said.

This is also the reason, she said, why China only sent "paramilitary armed vessels in the Spratlys and Scarborough and not military boats."

Diplomacy doesn't work

Santiago lamented that since the territorial disputes between China and the Philippines first erupted 25 years ago, "diplomacy never worked. It's like talking to a blind wall."

She said this was because China refused to recognize international agreements such as the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which were crafted to settle disputes.

Santiago suggested taking the issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) but warned that China had previously rejected the idea.

"The ICJ settles questions of boundaries and questions of sovereignty," she said. "China already said it would not agree to the jurisdiction of ICJ and effectively rejected diplomacy and settlement through the international court."

Only hope

"What (option) is left is passive politics," Santiago said. "We cannot engage in an arms buildup. China is just too big.

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Only hope

"What (option) is left is passive politics," Santiago said. "We cannot engage in an arms buildup. China is just too big.

no rich for us to catch up. So we turn to our allies...the EU which has a Visiting Forces Agreement with us, and we have just signed a pending VFA in the future, South Korea, Japan, and then follow ourselves in duress with interests in the South China Sea, like Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia."

Santiago voted "no" in the second reading in the house of the House of Visiting Forces Agreement with Australia.

But Santiago indicated a willingness to "rethink my position" on the issue if Australia, as well as other allies, would commit in writing that in case the Philippines come under attack, "we automatically armed but victim, and by threat or use of force, then they would come to our defense."

"That's one only hope that this president is going to help us just in case," Santiago said.

Gokongwei in talks to join Okada for Vegas style, $2-B casino by bay

From page B1

ridge of Manila Bay.

Tiger Sun rights to develop 40 hectares, the biggest among the four licensees, in Entertainment City.

On the fall of the Gokongwei group, who requested not to be named because he was not authorized to speak for the conglomerate, said the group was considering the project.

To beat Wynn Resorts

The sources said the Gokongwei group had several local businesses, notably the Lopez group, that tied to be a partner of Okada. The Lopezes were media giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and property developer Rockwell Land.

Okada, also known as the publisher king of Japan, holds ground on his casino in Entertainment City on Jan. 16, promising more than 2,000 jobs to the Filipinos. It aims to open the casino in the first half of 2014.

The groundbreaking came a few weeks before his American partners in Macau and Las Vegas casinos, Steve Wynn, secured loan of making improvements to its casino and gifts in Malaysian gaming regulations.

Okada denied seeking investors partners.

Wynn sees Okada's project in Entertainment City as a threat to his casino in Macau.

On his visit to Manila in May, Okada predicted that the center of gravity of the global gaming industry would shift from Las Vegas to Asia, with the Philippines playing a significant part in removing jobs from around the world.

"My dream is to create the best casino in the world here, in the Philippines," he said. "This is why I'm focusing on Philippine gaming...to make it the best in the world and to beat Wynn Resorts."

Andrew Tan again

Gokongwei, who owns a shopping mall chain, hotel resorts and the country's biggest budget airline, Cebu Pacific, would be joined in the project by another Filipino billionaire, Andrew Tan, whose property group would handle the land development style of Okada's casino project.

Tan, through his listed investment holding firm Alliance Global Group Inc., is also involved in another Entertainment City project, the $1.3-billion, 31-hectare Resorts World Horizons project of Travellers International Hotel Group, his partnership with Genting Hong Kong Ltd.

Travellers International runs the nobility-operated Resorts World, beside Terminal 3 of Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City.

Gokongwei's foray into casinos is the latest in a string of billion-dollar transactions involving investors in Entertainment City.

Razon, Henry Sy

In May, junk mogul Enrique Razon Jr.'s listed PhilWorth Holdings Corp. bought control of the 14-hectare Solaire Manila-Pagcor casino and hotel resort project of his gaming firm, Bloomberry Resorts and Hotels Inc.

Solaire Manila is expected to be the first to open among the projects of the four licensees.

Aliens and Sons, a conglomerate led by retail king Henry Sy took in Macau casino giant Melco Crown Entertainment—owned by Australian billionaire James Packer and Lawrance Ho, son of Macau gaming tycoon Stanley Ho—as partner in its $1-billion, 8-hectare project.

Pagcor has required all licensees to put in a minimum $1-billion investment in each integrated resort (IR) to open before the end of 2013. Only two projects—each in 2015, built to consist of 200,000 square meters of floor area and complete 800 hotel rooms with an average room size of 46 square meters.

Gokongwei is listed as the 4th of the richest list of richest Filipinos with a combined net worth of $3.2 billion. He was behind by (No. 1 with $9.5 billion) and Razon (No. 3 with $3.6 billion), and ahead of Tan (No. 6 with $2.3 billion).

SEEKING JUSTICE Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez (center) is flanked by Antonia Geertruse and Maria Elizabeth Geertruse (sister, siblings of slain William Geertruse, during the cross-adorned mass to honor the Dacer victims at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City. Both siblings are holding post-ers seeking justice for their slain brother.

Solons hit Bayan Muna strafing

By Cynthia D. Balana

KODH Mona party-list Representatives Neri Javier Colmenares and Teddy Casiño yesterday condemned the strafing of the Bayan Muna office in Jolo, Sulu-based, Brgy. Limbayan, Catarman, Northern Samar by two unidentified men 9th Tuesday night.

"It is again escalating," said Colmenares on the growing number of human rights violations, including the recent spate of extrajudicial killings under the administration of President Aquino.

Colmenares lamented that the President had failed to dismantle the death squads and the infrastructure of impunity that has plagued the country for years.

"Lumala [last June is a growing number of harassment and attacks against the progressive movement and the Aquino administration is doing nothing to stop it," he stressed.

Colmenares said no one of the four staff members at the Bayan Muna office in Northern Samar was hit, although the windows of the office were broken. He said that initial reports showed two men on a motorcycle opened the office with a .45 caliber gun at about 10:00 a.m. and immediately fled.

Colmenares cited the increasing number of cases of extrajudicial killings, such as those of Bayan Muna member Romualdo Dilapio in Buenia and Wilhelm Geertruse, the arrest of Makabayan coordinator Agnes Bisaya in Tagaytay City and acts of burglaries of offices of progressive organizations like Bayan Muna.

"What is also very alarming is that these all happened in a span of two weeks and it seems that there is a concerted effort now to attack the progressive movement, especially that the 2013 election is just approaching," he stressed.

According to the European militant group, there have been at least 78 victims of extrajudicial killings in the country under the present administration.

SC upholds Lucy Torres

By Marlon Ramos

MODIFICATION Lucy Torres-Gomez may continue to sit until the expiration of the House of Representatives on the daily-elected representative of the fourth district of Leyte province.

The Supreme Court yesterday junked the petition challenging the eligibility of her candidacy at the replacement for her husband, actor Richard Gomez, who was disqualified by the Commission on Elections for his failure to comply with the one-year residency rule.

In upholding the victory of the actress-turned-lawmaker, the high court said the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) did not err when it affirmed the legality of Torres-Gomez's certificate of candidacy.

It said the petitioner, Eufrocino Codilla Jr., who lost by more than 39,000 votes to Torres-Gomez, failed to prove that HRET abused its discretion when it threw out his petition on March 22.

"[The petitioner] failed to sufficiently show that any grave abuse of discretion was committed by the HRET in rendering the challenged decision and resolution," the court said in a 9-page notice of resolution.

The tribunal said the HRET's ruling "appeared to be in accord with the facts and applicable law and jurisprudence."

The court added that Codilla did not comply with the requirements under Rule 65 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure after his petition did not include the significant dates in connection with the receipt of the HRET's resolution and the filing of the motion for reconsideration.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Unhappy warrior

A DISGRUNTLED military officer used the occasion of the Philippine Air Force's 65th anniversary last week to launch a broadside at a new enemy: the civilianization of the Philippine military. A PAF magazine article titled "Military Phantline: Developing an outlook of professionalism in the AFP" took square aim at the Armed Forces' "diversion of missions and capabilities" for civilian purposes, and then fired salvo after salvo.

EDITORIAL

Given that the unnamed writer belongs in all likelihood to the Air Force, one is tempted to explain away this grousing in print as the reflections of an officer who has not seen much military action in recent years; the PAF, after all, is on longer what it was a generation ago and does not, in fact, have a single jet fighter to stone the sky. The military operations to counter the long-running communist insurgency, the Moro separatist rebellion and Abu Sayyaf banditry have been borne largely by the Army and the Marines; PAF involvement has been constrained by its lack of resources.

But that line of argument is, at its core, ad hominem. The startling proposals at the heart of the article are disturbing precisely because of their content. We can summarize the proposals in three items: They posit a view of military professionalism that is narrow and extreme; they fail to understand the nature of the military in a democracy; not least, they misunderstand the lessons of the most military history they seek to promote.

To develop "an outlook of professionalism," the article calls on the Armed Forces to begin "by returning to its traditional or war-fighting roots." But while a military worthy of its name and of the people's trust must be well-trained and adequately armed, it is a mistake to confuse the definition of military professionalism with war-fighting alone. Indeed, the national armies with the highest reputation for military prowess today, such as the American or the French, recognize that often the most effective way to win a military conflict is (no surprise there) to "win the hearts and the minds" of the population at risk. It is possible, then, to argue for more training or better arms or new fighting units; it is a grievous error to think that war-fighting capabilities alone will allow the military to achieve its aims.

To prove that the culture of civilianization is rampant in any branch of the Philippine military, the article cunningly rewinds its readers of a common misdeed: "One needs only to read AFP anniversary programs or [annual] reports to see this trend." This has led to "a situation wherein people in the military no longer considered themselves as policemen, relief workers, educators, builders, health care providers, politicians—everything but war-fighters." The best rejoinder to this reading is to say: That's progress! (Except for the part about the politician.) When the Constitution defined the Armed Forces' mandate as the protection of the people, surely it did not seek to limit the military's scope of protection to combat alone. (One more thing: On any given day, there are hundreds of soldiers in combat zones. It is a disservice to them to say they are noncombatants.)

To place its thesis in a long-term perspective, the article pointed to the lack of interest in the country's military history as "another sign that military professionalism is eroding." If this lack of interest is true, then the situation is truly unfortunate. But the article writer is himself a victim of this lack of historical appreciation; we get the sense that by military history he only means the episodic narrative of classic battles. While there is great practical virtue to be learned from studying—just to give one example—how AFP units under Roy Cimatu et al. captured the various camps of Sabanar Hashim's Moro Islamic Liberation Front in a matter of months, the real lesson from that conflict is that superior military prowess could not by itself bring an end to the Moro rebellion. And that's where the civilianization the writer so disdains comes into the picture.

Could these startling thoughts have been aired in a way to express displeasure with the present direction of the defense department, which is headed by a former general whose claim to fame was reverse in, ostensibly, Palace politics? Could the writer and the editors who allowed the article to see print have been emboldened by the renewed emphasis on the US military alliance and on the modernization of the AFP? More ominous, then, is how the true lessons of history

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The sorriest-looking traffic enforcers in the world

TODAY IS Friday the 13th which, according to superstition, is supposed to bring bad luck. So be careful in everything you do today, especially while driving.

* * *

The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is running out of ideas on how to improve traffic flow in the metropolis, especially on Edsa. Its latest idea is to create still another lane to be called the Edsa Express. This lane, one of two lanes reserved for buses, will be for bus companies that will agree to merge and form iconic Buses and Cars to relieve the number of buses plying the Edsa route.

Actually, the problem is very simple. There are too many vehicles not only on Edsa but all over the metropolis. So the solution is also simple: Reduce the number of vehicles on Edsa.

That may be hard to do with private vehicles but it should be easy with buses (and also jeepneys) because they operate as a public service by special permission of the government. In other words, private vehicles have a right to be on the streets, but buses and jeepneys have only a privilege granted them that can be withdrawn.

The original idea for Edsa and Rizal Avenue was that the elevated rail trains, because they are faster and cheaper, would wean passengers away from buses and jeepneys. Then, because of falling fare collections, the operators would reduce their frequency of trips in order to save money by operating vehicles with little or no passengers. Thus, the number of public vehicles would diminish by attrition.

But it didn't happen that way. The elevated rail operators did not buy enough trains and coaches to accommodate all the passengers wanting to ride them. We are that every day

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

thousands are crammed like sardines in the trains and long lines of passengers waiting for rides stretch to the streets below. So while the trip itself is fast, the waiting period is long, while the other alternative, commuters stayed with the buses and jeepneys.

But the problem was that the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board was too generous in granting franchises. (Or maybe the fares were too permissive.) The metropolis, especially Edsa, now has many times more vehicles than it can hold. According to official records, there are about 11,000 city and provincial buses now plying Edsa every day, but the yellow lanes reserved for them can hold only 1,000 buses.

The problem was exacerbated when the previous MMDA administration was by someone who became a presidential candidate (and who, therefore, was courting votes) gave the provincial buses another lane, shoulder; provincial buses stay in the provinces and outside city limits? When the city was not so crowded, it was all right to bring passengers right to their doorsteps in the city. But now that there is no more room for more buses, shouldn't the city be off limits to provincial buses? They can drop their passengers at terminals in Alabang and Valenzuela. There are more than enough city buses to take them to the inner cities.

Speaking of terminals, there was a plan a very long time ago that city buses were to converge terminals and be dispatched as needed. The idea was to eliminate long lines of buses empty buses crowding the streets, wasting precious fuel and polluting the air. Buses dawdling at bus stops and waiting for passengers are what cause the perceived traffic in the streets. So what happened to that plan?

The Edsa Express proposed by MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino may not be that easy to accomplish. The bus operators may not be able to agree among themselves. What would they do with the buses, drivers and conductors who would be left idle? The vehicles have to earn to pay for their amortization, and the drivers and conductors have to earn their daily wages to feed their families.

And how can you enforce the Edsa Express first lane when MMDA traffic enforcers disappear into the ortodoxia and find food chains where it is free lunch and dinner time?

I think the MMDA should improve its law-enforcement force. It has the ancient looking wardens (from the past century, with their ill-fitting blue uniforms that cannot hide their bulging bellies (no many free lunches?). Drivers do not respect or fear them. A traffic enforcer must look authoritative and soon to be respected.

When drivers see cops that they will be arrested if they violate traffic rules, they will discipline themselves. For example, bus and jeepney drivers load and unload passengers in no loading/unloading zones, and even in the middle of the street, even when there are traffic enforcers around, because they are not arrested. And if they are arrested, the drivers can persuade the enforcers to forget the whole thing with P100 bills.

As for curbing the number of private vehicles, buy more trains and coaches (and improve the Philippine National Railways commuter service) so more passengers will leave their cars behind and take to the rails. In fact, that was the original idea for the Metro Rail. There would be parking lots beside the rail stations so the car owners can leave their chauffeurs there and ride the trains. But the rail operators did not follow the plans to increase the capacities. That was a good plan. It's not too late to implement it.

Vatican vs Beijing: a state-appointed bishop

THE INQUIRER yesterday reported that the Vatican had objected to the ordination in China of a local bishop without a papal mandate. This was followed by the resignation by seven of 10 bishops from the government-run Roman Catholic Church's Patriotic Association (PCA) in open defiance of authorities, and he has not been heard from since.

Bishop Joseph Fan Xuehong was ordained Friday in the northeastern city of Harbin with the Vatican blessings, and Beijing responded by immediately excommunicating him. As of 10 o. sponse, the Rev. Huaidong Wu Jingjie, who was just installed auxiliary bishop of Shanghai, announced that he was resigning from the PCA. To the excommunicating spokesman of his congregation, he declared: "In the light of the teaching of our mother church, I have no other choice but to withdraw from its pastoral work and evangelization. ... Therefore, from this day of existence, first, it will no longer be convenient for me to be a member of the patriotic association."

I had thought that post-Mao China is no longer heavily religious and, on the contrary, has discovered the value of faith in building society together against the vagaries of materialism and profit-seeking. Perhaps what Beijing wants to ward off is the prospect of a Joseph Cardinal Sin in the making. The multitude of Taiwanese who flocked to hear Cardinal Sin, but only as a tourist, should focus on pastoral work and evangelization. ... Therefore, from this day of existence, first, it will no longer be convenient for me to be a member of the patriotic association."

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Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

They allow enrolled students from other religions to "opt out" of religious instruction. And they allow the teaching of their own religion as articles of faith (methods only by their own believers, rather than as an academic discipline (methods even by nonbelievers).

In contrast, on this point, it is China and the United States that are similar, in that basic education is secular. In most schools, there is no such thing as religious-based education of discipline. There is no need to give parents the option to "opt out" of religious instruction, because there is no religious instruction. Instead what we have is an "opt in" choice for parents to allow their children to be taught religion "outside our additional one to the government," and especially for college and university students, they maintain the distinction between "teaching religion" and "teaching about religion" as demanded by the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment (which is essentially the faithful own business—to divinity school).

Second, it seems that Beijing sees religion as a civil ideology, to be contained, domesticated and subordinated to the official state ideology. The irony is: What exactly is its state ideology? Certainly not Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought. I suspect the Filipino Maoists would outdo their comrades in Beijing on ideological purity.

If China has unofficially adopted laissez-faire in economics, why not in ideology, too? If precisely what their one-party state does is to be the "core of a conservatizing group, shouldn't the multiplicity of religions precisely guarantee that the Communist Party remains paramount over all the fragmented groups, religious or not, and that the more the proliferation, the more entrenched the Party?

In contrast, we Filipinos have assumed that it is possible "to give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." We adopted the liberal duality that state secular and religious good visions can coexist, both affirming in their own way a communal identity larger than the self, the first in the public sphere, the second in the spiritual world.

Third, perhaps what truly also fearing is that Vatican-appointed bishops are not beholden to the Party, the way over big time bureaucrats have before meddling party secretaries. In other words, it is our ideology but organizational loyalty that matters. Perhaps Beijing has a point. It took me a while to grasp the millenary line distinction and hierarchy in the Catholic Church that starts at the apex with the papacy at the Vatican.

That said, an independent Chinese clergy poses a secular threat in the Communist Party no different from a Confucian tie to a Marxist-Leninist State. Indeed, the emergence of an independent enclave is bigger threat in Manila than a renegade bishop in Beijing, it is that in our system, the cardinal's power over his flock is especially protected by the Constitution. It is his right to select rectors beyond the reach of security personnel, to appoint the philosophers, the theologically privileged, excludable only by revelation rather than by man's reason. There is no such privileging in the Chinese setup. For them, it is just another body of beliefs and the fact that it purports to speak to an invisible god makes it no more or less than any economic doctrine set by an invisible hand. Why be so paranoid with such harmless perils?

In a Beijing church, I noticed they were big on stopping worshippers from stepping on the pew's kneelers. There were big signs on the floor and in different parts telling the point. If Mao Big Brother was watching, even if it wasn't him I came there to talk to.

* * *

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China holds war game

TENSIONS FLARED up in the East China Sea between Japan and China on Tuesday at the start of the live war exercises of the Chinese navy in waters near Okinotori, East China's Zhejiang province. The exercises are aimed by Beijing's maritime neighbors in Asia as an escalation of its show of naval power amidst worsening territorial disputes in the region.

China's defense ministry had announced that the navy would conduct a 6-day live ammunition drill, while the People's Liberation Army issued live maritime navigation warnings for areas covering the designated exercise zone. According to the announcements, the area is bigger than its previous drills but it is not in the waters disputed by China and its neighbors, and the exercises are not a confrontation to counter joint military exercises between American and Philippine forces in the waters near the islands of Mindanao and Palawan in southern Philippines.

Although the exercises were planned months ago, they were launched after Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said Saturday that Japan was considering leasing a chain of islands at the center of its bitter territorial dispute with China to avoid their purchase by the East China Sea so-called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese, and are further to the east of the area of the exercises. China warned angrily in Noda's remarks. The exchange quickly deteriorated into a diplomatic row between Tokyo and Beijing, adding to the number of territorial disputes Beijing has in the waters of its smaller neighbors.

A day after the start of the Chinese naval exercises, Japan protested to China for asserting its "indisputable sovereignty" over the disputed chain of islands in the East China Sea. Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba "strongly lodged a protest" to his Chinese counterpart.

The Chinese ambassador in Tokyo was summoned over the alleged intrusion, but the Chinese foreign ministry said it did not "accept Japanese representations over this," according to a report by Agence France-Presse. Chinese foreign Minister Yang Jiechi countered to Gemba that the islands "have always been Chinese territory since ancient times, over which China has undisputed sovereignty."

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

It is a development that cannot be dismissed out of hand, in light of the fact that Japan is the leading maritime and naval power in East Asia and, of particular interest to the Philippines, has been aiding the Philippines in building up its naval capability. Tokyo has also repaired its defense treaty with the Asian country. Japan is also capable of rounding up a China's increasingly aggressive maritime incursions in the waters of smaller neighbors.

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This has also been China's line of argument in rejecting Philippine claims to disputed territories in the West Philippine Sea.

The East China Sea stands for its rich fishing grounds and are thought to hold valuable mineral reserves. Tokyo recognizes a private family as the owner of the islands and the city government has plans to buy them.

China's hardening position on its territorial claims and the diplomatic row between Tokyo and Beijing appear aiming directly to the efforts of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to forge in its meeting in Phnom Penh a code of conduct to ease tensions in the South China Sea. Three members did not engage the Asean summit. In particular, Philippine foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario was prompted to remark, "It looks like they [the Chinese] are becoming more aggressive every day."

In the Asean members conferred, China seemed that they should keep the territorial disputes off their agenda. It wanted the forum against "hyping" a dispute over the South China Sea. It insisted that the dispute should be resolved only bilaterally between the rival claimants — an approach it favors because it would give it advantage in picking off the rival claimants one by one.

"The South China Sea is not an issue between China and Asean, but an issue between China and some Asean members," Liu Weimin of China's foreign ministry told reporters. "Signing the South China Sea issue ... is against the common aspirations of the people and the main trends of the time to seek development and cooperation, and an attempt to sabotage China-Asean relations hopes."

What about gunboat diplomacy in the naval exercises with live ammunition? Is that more persuasive?

Motherhood and faith

CALLING FOR the passage of the reproductive health (RH) bill as the seamen date possible, Sen. Pia Cayetano accused its critics of closing their eyes to the "urgent maternal need" for such legislation.

"They refuse to lift a finger to help alleviate the unnecessary and preventable deaths," said the senator, a sponsor with Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago of the Senate version of the legislation. "It's high time we ended this vicious cycle where mothers are callously denied access to reproductive health services and information that could save their lives."

In her statement issued on World Population Day last Wednesday, Senator Cayetano appealed to everyone to "prioritize the plight and burden of Filipino mothers. They are the ones who risk their life to bear new life, carry the primary burden of ensuring the health, education and welfare of their children, and balance the family's meager resources to survive from day to day."

Saying "the situation of our mothers has gone from bad to worse" with rising maternal death statistics, the senator said "any last-minded logistics [should] support the enactment of the RH bill, which would allow mothers to choose the ways to reproduce in health service of the government."

She also stressed that maternal deaths can be prevented under the RH bill, which seeks to expand access in the following services, especially to those from the poorest households: natural and artificial family planning services to allow mothers to plan and space their pregnancies; prenatal care to ensure the mother's health and nutrition, and allow for early detection of complications; safe and modern birthing facilities staffed by health professionals to contain safe deliveries; and emergency care to minimize and address complications after delivery.

* * *

GROUPS the groups that met at the Family Planning Summit held in October the other day was a constituency "that might surprise some people," reported Dan P. Florencio of the Philippine Star. The group was made up of "people of faith"—Christians (including Catholics, Protestants and evangelicals), Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and others. "The faith support for family planning ranges from progressive Christians to Catholics and evangelicals," said Florencio.

"Family planning is morally laudable in Christian terms because of its contribution to family well-being, women and children's health, and the prevention of abortion," said Richard Cizik, president of the New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good. "Our loving challenge to those who oppose family planning is that black family planning efforts, globally or domestically, because of your opposition to groups that provide both contraception and abortion. Instead, consider how a deeply pro-life moral commitment, focusing on the true sanctity of all human beings made in God's image, actually ought to lead to support for family planning."

* * *

MORE than 250 religious leaders and supporting partners—including Muslims, Protestants, Catholics, Buddhists and Hindus—mobilized by the Forum for Family Planning in Development (FFPD) to help them "bring their faith to action in enabling families to plan the timing and number of their children in accordance with their faith." The coordinators of this declaration, organized Cikam, was led by DKSP (an international development organization based in Denmark), Christian Connections for International Health, and Muhammadiyah (a Muslim social service agency in Indonesia).

This just goes to prove that family planning and religion are not necessarily contradictory or antagonistic. Being able to choose and plan for one's family and being given the means to make that choice and those plans a reality are certainly a holy moment well-fulfillment and self-realization. Shouldn't we all make fulfilled such a worthwhile goal?

* * *

G. DARES gathering" was how yesterday's launch of the Training Center for Gynecologic Endoscopy was described. A small group of doctors, including officers of the Philippine Society for Gynecologic Endoscopy, representatives of Karl Kiser, supplier of the endoscopic equipment to be used in the training, and friends gathered at the East Avenue Medical Center for the simple ceremony.

Among those present was Dr. Joseph Encinas, president of the Asia Pacific Society of Gynecologic Endoscopy, who was also in the country for the local society's annual convention. Gynecologic endoscopy is minimally invasive procedures that can be used in place of surgery, "will soon be a basic and essential" procedure in medical practice, said Encinas, who hails from Iloilo. Indeed, at the close of the launch ceremony, Encinas was in demonstrated endoscopy procedures involving the use of a flexible probe with a camera attached to one end that could be used by the surgeon to probe bodies and instruments either to collect samples for testing or perform surgery.

"In the Philippines, endoscopy is still in its infancy," remarked Dr. Pilar Lagmay Ong, chair of the DARES OB-GYN Department, "and reason for this is the small number of teachers and the 'expensive equipment' needed to be used in training," she said.

This may explain why the training center in East Avenue is "the first of its kind" in the country, with the aim to "bring endoscopy down amongst us and establish such a center years ago," Dr. Cielo Encinas, president of the local society, said setting up the center at East Avenue was a deliberate decision because the government hospital "is a service for poor patients" who are referred from four other satellite DARES centers. "This is a dream come true for Filipino women," she said.

Martial law baby

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

READING "Subversive Lives" by Lucas and Nathan Quimpo reminded me that I belong to a generation known as the "martial law babies." I was 11 the first day martial law swept over the Philippines in September 1972. The wonders was fine. It was not a scheduled holiday, but classes were suspended. The adults seemed anxious because the news papers were shut and all broadcast stations radio and TV were dead. Everybody seemed to be indoors; the street outside our house was unusually still. I ventured out the village gate to find Edsa empty, then I was ordered back into the house.

Later in the day, President Marcos announced on TV the reasons for martial law in a speech in Ilocano. It was not a military takeover. That theory image captured in black and white, was part of archival footage, from out of my childhood memories together with the flagtop Lipanan song, curfew, drop leaves to surrender firearms or ammunitions, and slogans like "Sa Bisnesmid ng bayan, disiplina ang kailangan."

Mr. and Mrs. Marcos often interrupted our limited TV fare. Today we have so many choices on cable TV during martial law there were times that all channels carried an "important public announcement" by either Mrs. Cecile Guidote Alvarez or Jose Antonio Goitia. Children remembered Marcos on his birthday, Sept. 11, and even celebrated the declaration of martial law on Sept. 21 as "National Thanksgiving Day." Some children were raised with "martial law" as their middle name, including but not limited to Jose Bayani Baldoz, who is the "Crown Revelators" to maintain with the evil communists "no-revolution."

History was enlarged, such that 1001 more lost all within Bonifacio and the Philippine Revolution, with texts pasted over pictures of a livelihood project. New meanings were crafted for old words: ang dag, for example, was not just "love," it could also mean "loaning loans" Love was associated with the first air-conditioned bus in Manila known as the Love Bus that made a loop from Cubao to Makati to Escolta, and Blue referred to low-cost transportation.

I have not checked the current Oxford English Dictionary to see if the Philippine usage for "salvage" has been revamped. In English, "salvage" means to save or recover something, in Philippine English it means the opposite. "Salvage" is used to describe brutal extrajudicial killings, often preceded by torture. To understand Philippine usage it is better to hire the mid-Depend Army and the Spanish adjective salvaje (savage) as a verb modifier. When written in Spanglish as "salvajeje" and read like English, you get "mind rape" hence salvage and salvaging.

Reading "Subversive Lives" reminded me of my own experiences and of growing up in a particular sort of martial law that the government dismissed as comic punishable by law as an offense called "rumor mongering." The book reminded me of all the attempts to use at the time that will have readers consulting the appendix of the book often. I remember being told by my father to "Say Yes and "No Evils," terms also used by the Quimpos who were even closer kept under the "God Terms."

I'm glad I work on the late 19th century because people like Raul Isle 20 exhumed of surviving. If Raul had a cell phone or an iPad, Andrew Bonifacio would have no secrets. The Philippine Revolution en route papers on the 20 in century has a distinct different challenge from his predecessors. The invention of the cellphone, e-mail, and Skype means that many things are lost in history, but these are not written down.

Reading studying Marcos, for example, has to track down many papers lost during the looting and shooting of Malacañang in 1986. Marcos had a sense of history, which may yet be his undoing. He left us with a daily diary that remains to be published. Many of the papers that landed on the desk many presidents were "Marcos" documents read and Cory Aquino took us papers the same way? Fidel Ramos was another President who liked to write on margins in different colors, each coded for emphasis, priority, and action required. Blocked papers were stored in Malacañang's archives, and were given to the National Archives, which papers ended up in the National Archives or the scrap paper dealer?

Historians looking for new papers have another enemy in the paper shredder. What documents are filed, what are classified, what are destroyed? The 20th century is an exciting time for academics we know as Pete-h. These yellow squares of paper with adhesive contain important presidential notes or historic documents containing a document that remains spoken over the historical or inestimable. Do you see this sticker on Fed-ex is removed.

Yes, I have seen the Marcos papers, classified or otherwise. I told a diplomat in Manila once that a future historian would find their diaries an important primary source for the period. I was disheartened when he declared, "We are not supposed to keep diaries." I asked why and he answered, "Marcos may be subpoenaed, so it is best not to have them."

Martial law is a significant period in Philippine history and I'm glad there are books like "Subversive Lives" that not only tell us about one family's experience but, more importantly, how the nation as a whole was affected by martial law. Martial law seems to be revisited and the more primary sources available, the better it will be.

* * *

Comments are welcome at my Facebook Fan Page.

Livable spaces

AT LAST, a study of the cities of the world that considers spaces. Previous studies focused on cost of living, safety, educational facilities and infrastructure, all of which are important, but here, at last, the British magazine The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released a special Adjusted Livability Index, with rankings of 70+ cities. One does wonder the criteria I mentioned above, plus factors such as, green spaces and unlimited

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

city of cultural and cultural events.

On going to talk about the results, including Manila's ranking, but will also discuss what this might mean for urban planning and for our own personal decisions for choosing a place to live in. Filipinos badly enough to choose which country they want to live and work in may check this index before deciding on accepting a job offer. Our city administrators and urban planners should also look at the study, which is downloadable from The Economist website, for ideas on similar studies for the Philippines.

Before I open the envelope and announce the winners, let me tell you about the sample used. There were 70 cities chosen, the biggest ones by population, which means that only one city—Manila (presumably Metro Manila)—was used for the Philippines. I think that if the study were expanded to include smaller metropolitan areas, more of our cities would have made it into the study, and probably fared not too badly. Many years back, the now defunct Asiaweek magazine had surveys of Asian cities and Cebu and Davao beat Manila for quality of life.

Let's get back to the Special Adjusted Livability Index. Surprising even the researchers themselves, Hong Kong came in No. 1. A few years back I would have been shocked, too, now seeing Hong Kong with the iconic "I shop, therefore I am" and Disneyland and hotels. But over the years I've discovered another side to Hong Kong, which I hope many more Filipinos, including the more than 100,000 living there, will discover for themselves.

Following Hong Kong were Amsterdam, Osaka, Paris and Sydney. The other Asian cities rankings in this index were: Tokyo (16), Seoul (30), Singapore (32), Taipei (39), Shanghai (53), Shenzhen (54), Kuala Lumpur (57), Tianjin (58), Guangzhou (59), New Delhi (68). Pakistani, particularly Manila's three, Bangkok 47th, then we're 48th, followed by Bangkok as 49th. The rest of the cities were Mumbai (52), Jakarta (56), Hanoi (67), Ho Chi Minh (68), Phnom Penh (69), Karachi (70), Dhaka (71).

The EIU observed the findings for this particular index and compared it with an earlier Livability Index with no space indicators. In that earlier index, Hong Kong ranked 35th, but bringing in spatial indicators catapulted it to No. 1, which shows what livable spaces can do.

Green oases

Here are the spatial indicators, and how Manila fared on a scale of 1 (best) to 5 (worst). I'll bring in some of the other cities as well for comparison.

The first criterion was green spaces, consisting of parks, squares and gardens. Golf courses were excluded. I use thinking of some local real estate developers who have been advertising their projects as "golf course living" even if it's only golf courses. I did look at some of these developments and most say the golf courses are the least used, but only because they seem to be the last green spaces in Metro Manila, besides University of the Philippines in Diliman. Manila scored 4.4 here, close to the bottom. Hong Kong did very well with a score of 1.3, with 40 percent of the territory classified as country parks. Not a park. Does www.hongkongtourism.com/explore-hong-kong for a great guide to the city's parks.)

This study reminds us that even with income inheritance, it is possible to carve out green spaces. London scored 1 here and New York 1.3. Granted there of course zoning to consider, but we can't fault people for wanting to live in a park.

The second criterion was sprawl. If the population is spread out over too wide an area, it becomes difficult to move around, encouraging private cars and making public transport systems more expensive. We did fairly well here with a score of 2, but I suspect that was because Metro Manila is relatively small in land area, which gives the false impression that cities can reach sprawl. But because living in Metro Manila has become so expensive, there are actually thousands of people who live outside of the metropolis and continue to work daily. I know someone who lives as far north as Tarlac, leaving home at the crack of dawn each day to get to Manila to work and returning at about 8 or 9 p.m. to avoid traffic.

Natural assets make up the third criterion. Rainfall, sea, rivers, lakes and mountains over 500 meters? That one within a 100-km radius, as well as protected areas in a 75-km radius. We scored a dismal 4 here, while Hong Kong had 1.3. We have islands, but we have the Pasig River, and we have beaches in nearby Cavite, but they're not quite considered as such. In contrast, 42 percent of Hong Kong's land area is devoted to parks and protected natural areas, including some of the best trekking trails in the world, and this is what those more people will discover, and consider, for urban planning. Our cities will have to start thinking about the inclusion of Metro Manila and try to preserve the natural assets that are close by. I will say, too, that Hong Kong does have its share of problems preserving those green spaces and we can also learn from the environmentalists that groups there.

Connectivity, the fourth criterion, refers to cities roads able by public transport, and international airport. Manila scored 3 here, but I wonder if this should be considered positive. The Philippines relies too much on Manila's airport for international connections and we pay for it in terms of poor airports and pollution.

Cultural assets refer to the number of Unesco World Heritage sites within 100 km near in city. We scored 4, as did Hong Kong. Only Rome, Mexico City and New York scored 1 here.

Industries is an interesting criterion, and refers to other large cities (population) more than 1,500,000) within a 200-km radius, which would mean more alternatives in people and lifestyles. Just think of how much (or how little) of a choice we have in Metro Manila, given that even if there were other cities, we would just be closer of our more features. We scored 3.8 here.

The final criterion was pollution, using data from the World Health Organization on particulate matter in the air. We scored 3, again like Hong Kong. Generally, Asian cities fared poorly with Singapore having the highest score at 2. Surprisingly, it was nowhere near the likes of Sydney, Toronto, London and Miami that scored best.

It's time we raised our own cities, and discussed how livable spaces have to be living spaces, unless preserved around, and invited into, cities.

* * *

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Attend to needs of OFWs in Mideast

LETTERS

THE PHILIPPINE government should provide our medical professionals—particularly our nurses working in Middle Eastern countries like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Egypt and Bahrain—with ample protection, as tensions are high in these areas. Most likely, they are facing real danger and they may be putting their lives at risk. Not only that, it's also highly possible that they are not being treated well by their employers and or may be toiling hard under labor intensive conditions. Our Department of Foreign Affairs should always be ready with contingency plans for any possible eventuality in Middle Eastern countries, where the bulk of our medical professionals are based.

If possible, our embassy staff should be tasked to constantly monitor the wellbeing of our medical professionals and contract workers in the Middle East and throughout the world. Our ambassadors should listen to their complaints, attend to their problems as quickly as possible, and ensure their necessary assistance is duly be possible under the law.

From information we have gathered, there are so many Filipino workers, especially those working in remote areas, who are not receiving their salaries on time, to the detriment of their families in the Philippines.

Overseas Filipino workers everywhere in the world are hardworking, dedicated, sincere and loyal to their employers. More important, they help boost the Philippine economy with their remittances to their families in the Philippines. They are not our modern-day heroes for nothing. Therefore they deserve to be provided with utmost care and assistance, and to be looked after in their hours of need.

—ABDULHADI S. ALAJI,
Kabuguiran Street,
Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

Ne'er-do-well PCA Pagadian staff

I AM writing this letter to express my disappointment with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) office in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur.

Around 10:30 a.m. of July 9, 2013, I went to the PCA Pagadian office to get a shipment or transport permit for five Seedsource Coconut seedlings that I intend to give to Secretary Proceso Alcala's lovees for tending. Therefore they deserve to be provided with utmost care and assistance, and to be looked after in their hours of need.

I sought the permit in compliance with the PCA circular requiring such permit to ensure that seedlings transported from the province's are free from pests and diseases.

Sad to say the ladies in the office told me that the PCA head was on leave. Aggravating the situation, nobody in the office had the sense, initiative, or caliber to do things that would have made possible the legitimate issuance of a permit.

In this time of a PDAF-free world, is it so hard to think that the PCA office in Pagadian is quite far and I was just told that I came back. Well, the people in the office were doing nothing and they had the gall to tell me to just come back?

In my simple mind, is it not commonsensical to assign or appoint somebody to act as officer-in-charge when the head of office goes on leave? No wonder our coconut industry is in a mess. Incompetent people are manning important positions, and do not know what to do.

We do not need this kind of people in government service; they're just wasting taxpayer's money.

—JEFF QUIÑONERA,
Pagadian City
ren_quinonera@yahoo.com

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Maynilad replies to Cruz

THIS IS in response to Ma'Cruz's column "Water Sense illegally collecting fees" (Inquirer, 7/4/13) on the public may know the truth.

1. Contrary to claims that we engage in reconnection collections, we are actually required by the government to advance our investments so we can extend our services to unserved or underserved customers. We are also required to continuously invest in our water network infrastructure until 2037 ensuring water supply for our customers.

2. Our fees are based on specific, explicit service level obligations stipulated in the concession agreement, not on the completion of particular projects. If for some reason, we are unable to implement a project and this prevents us from achieving our service obligation targets...our tariff will be adjusted accordingly in the next rate rebasing period, as within this rebasing period. In effect, this "quasi- and waiver" of our company and the customers are balanced out to ensure that the tariff structure is fair and equitable to both parties.

3. The claim that our "distribution pipes...are tiny" and that all we have to do is "collect the installation bills" is a blatant lie. Since 2007, we have spent over P40 billion to expand and modernize the pipe network we inherited from the government. We also laid over 2,270 kilometers of additional pipes, and built additional pumping stations and reservoirs so we could reach an unserved population in our concession area. Also, 20 percent of our total spending went to overhaul the former dysfunctional lease obtained by MWSS before privatization in 1997. We are currently paying 9% percent of its debts.

4. Implementation of the Labasa Dam and Angat Dam Irrigation Replacement projects fall under the jurisdiction of MWSS. As such, we or our share are officially cancelled in documents is entirely up to it. Nonetheless, we are required by the government to shoulder 10 percent of the investment costs for these projects.

5. Last April 23, the MWSS Board of Trustees (BOT) issued a resolution directing the implementation of its stakes restitution directing the MWSS Regulatory Office (RO) to issue a notice and finish order to its concessionaires, with regard to their collected tariffs for the Labasa Dam and Angat Dam irrigation improvement projects.

The concessionaires cannot be guilty of refusing to "obey the orders of the MWSS and the RO" when there is no such valid order. These BOT resolutions were never transmitted to or duly communicated to the concessionaires. Claim that the concessionaires "conspired and collaborated to defy the said orders" are therefore untrue and baseless.

6. We do not collect arrearage fees from our customers who are not connected to our water lines.

We in Maynilad have always conducted our business in a manner that is fair to our customers and consistent with our contractual agreement with the government. Our investments have generated employment for thousands of Filipinos. We remain committed to provide clean, safe and affordable water solutions to our customers.

—CIELITO S. HABACON RCA,
Head, Corporate Communications,
Maynilad Water Services Inc.

From Marcos to Marilaque

I CONCUR with the idea of a letter sender that the name of Marcos highways be changed (Inquirer, 6/30/13). However, I do not share the view that it should be changed because it is named after a despotic president. My reason for advocating a change of name is different.

Marcos Highway refers to any of the following highways: Marikina-Infanta (Quezon province) Highway, the highway connecting San Nicolas, Manila and Novotas City; the highway connecting Agoo, La Union and Baguio City which at present is also known as Asjalan Highway.

Confusion or disagreement arises, no doubt, as to the name of these highways. To clear up the confusion, I suggest that the name, Marcos Highway, of the highway connecting Marikina City and Quezon province be changed. This major thoroughfare is also known as Marikina-Infanta Highway, which stands for Marikina-Rizal-Laguna-Quezon.

I remember the time my duty as a student of UP Diliman. My classmates and I occasionally traversed this highway in going to Laguna for a field study and a professor of Arabic subject told us that Marcos Highway was also referred to as Sitio Sapat Highway.

Simply put, why not change this highway into Sitio Sapat Highway?

—REGINALD B. TAMAYO,
acting associate city counsel of Antipolo City,
Marikina City

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MAITA GOMEZ

Maita Gomez, beauty queen and activist; 64

HONOLULU — Maita Gomez, beauty queen and political activist who helped Corazon Aquino win power in the 1986 People Power revolution that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos, died Wednesday in Honolulu. She was 64.

Gomez died at the Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu after a long illness, said Rowena Dilag, a spokeswoman for the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu.

Gomez was born in Manila on Aug. 23, 1947, and moved to Hawaii with her family when she was 10. She graduated from Punahou School in Honolulu and earned a degree in political science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

She was crowned Miss Philippines in 1965 and represented the Philippines in the Miss World pageant in London that year, where she was first runner-up to Lesley Langley of Britain.

Gomez returned to Hawaii and worked as a model and actress. She also became involved in politics, campaigning for Democratic candidates in Hawaii.

In 1983, Gomez moved back to the Philippines and became a vocal critic of Marcos, who had declared martial law in 1972 and ruled the country as a dictator. She was arrested and detained briefly in 1983 for her activism.

After the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. in August 1983, Gomez became more involved in the anti-Marcos movement. She helped organize protests and rallies, and she was a key figure in the People Power revolution that began in February 1986 after Marcos declared himself the winner of a disputed election.

When Marcos fled the country in February 1986, Gomez was appointed by Aquino's new government to be the Philippine ambassador to Fiji. She served in that post for two years.

After returning to Hawaii, Gomez worked as a consultant and continued to be active in Filipino-American community affairs. She was also a frequent visitor to the Philippines, where she was a popular figure.

Gomez is survived by her husband, Ben Cayetano, who was governor of Hawaii from 1994 to 2002; two children; and several grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday at the Nuuanu Memorial Park Mortuary in Honolulu.

Ampatuans used backhoes in other killings, says witness

From page A1

stood at the courtroom inside the Quezon City Jail Annex at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City, Mucanan admitted knowledge of participation in the killing of 58 people, including over 30 media workers, on Nov. 23, 2009, in remote areas in Maguindanao.

Members of the Ampatuan clan, led by former Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. and his son Andal Jr., are among the 195 people charged with the massacre at Quezon City RTC Branch 221.

"I heard [president-in-] Arroyo [Gloria Macapagal] had been used in burying victims of past killings.

He said that in 2005 and 2008, he saw people killed by the Ampatuans—Rudel Sr., Andal Jr., Zaldy Sajid, Anwar, Ahmad, Datings, Misuari, Parad and others.

Defense objection

The prosecution then manifested that it allowed in identify the perpetrators of the killings in 2005 and 2008, the witness would identify the Ampatuans from among those accused in the 2009 massacre.

But Mucanan was not allowed to pinpoint the Ampatuans in open court after Presiding Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes sustained an objection of defense counsel Sigfrid Fortun that the case being heard was not about the previous killings.

The prosecution tried to convince Judge Reyes to reverse her decision, saying it was important that the accused be positively identified to overturn their claim that they had been engaged in similar unrelated before, specifically in killing people and using backhoes to cover their bodies.

Reyes, however, was firm. "I don't see any need to point out the accused. They have already been identified."

In his testimony Mucanan said he was told to create pits with the backhoe for dumping the bodies of the victims and to cover them with soil and mud.

He said he did not know the identity of the victims but he saw how they were killed—"blindfolded, and with hands tied to the back."

Mucanan was released after direct examination as Fortun requested that the cross-examination be done next week, saying he had been informed of the scope of his testimony only today before the hearing.

Earlier, the prosecution urged the court to immediately arraign Zaldy Ampatuan, a former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and son of the former Maguindanao governor, following a Supreme Court ruling affirming the charges against him in connection with the 2009 massacre.

The panel led by Deputy State Prosecutor Jhoy Medalle said there was no longer a hindrance to the arraignment as it asked Judge Reyes to deny Zaldy's pending appeal on a March 29 order setting the procedure.

"For the wheels of justice to start moving, accused should now be arraigned so as to allow him to enjoy the other accused who have long submitted themselves to the court's jurisdiction to finally face the evidence against him based on during the trials on the merits," it said.

SC decision

Attached to the panel's interactive motion was a notice of the decision of the Supreme Court's Third Division, affirming the reinstatement of murder charges against Zaldy by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

With the denial of the accused's petition for review, Medalle said the Supreme Court affirmed the ruling of the Court of Appeals which recognized the DOJ's finding of probable cause against Zaldy.

Last week, Judge Reyes directed the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to conduct its own probe on the death of a policeman who was among those charged with the massacre.

The independent investigation would "settle once and for all the doubts" clouding the death of PO2 Lorenzo Decipida Jr. while in detention, she said in her July 6 order.

It was also meant "to assuage the feelings of the accused's bereaved family and concerned police officers," the order said.

'Suicide' case

Decipida, a member of the 1508th Provincial Mobile Group assigned to Pagalungan, died on Feb. 8 after allegedly jumping from the roof of the building where he and the Ampatuans were being detained at Camp Bagong Diwa.

Following his death, 16 other concerned police officers sought their transfer to another facility.

The court order for an NBI probe stemmed from a request of the prosecution, which noted a previous appeal to transfer the policemen to the detention center of the Criminal Investigation and Detention Group in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

It noted that the "frustration for a western country resident," by jail warden, Senior Insp. Jolin Conrad Marcelino Bantilo, appeared to be a "tacit admission that they have been lax in their various duty to ensure the life and limbs of all detention prisoners under his authority."

Depression

"The authorities claimed that depression was the apparent cause of Decipida's alleged 'suicide,' but the prosecution cannot just take their word for it and turn a blind eye on the real situation inside the jail facility as they cannot discount the possibility that some other reasons may have triggered the 'impulsiveness,'" it said.

The NBI was given 15 days to carry out the investigation. *With a report from Julie M. Aurelio*

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Southeast Asia outshines China, India as safe investment haven

LITTLE more than a dozen years after the region's crippling financial crisis, Southeast Asia is looking more resilient than ever before, with foreign investors zooming on China and India and pouring money into markets proving resilient to the global gloom.

Short-term investors in Southeast Asian stocks and bonds are increasingly outpacing those with a longer-term horizon, signaling growing confidence in a region of 600 million people that boasts a rapidly growing middle class.

Foreign investment in regional funds is also surging ahead.

Assets managed by offshore mutual and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) dedicated to Southeast Asia rose to more than $20 billion in March, according to an analysis of Lipper data, four-fifths of the sum held in actively managed funds, with the rest in shorter-term ETFs.

Those levels have changed little during a 14-percent fall in the MSCI Southeast Asian share index in April-June, hit by the global market downturn. Stock valuations remain high, concerns for investors to be cautious. Still, the March figure was more than triple the low that after the financial crisis in 2009.

By comparison, funds dedicated to China and India were caught in 40 percent before pouring in both and falling, the data show. China fell to $17 billion at end-March.

"It's a structural change in terms of the way investors perceive the market," said Rajesh Bangia, who is a portfolio manager at Hong Kong-based hedge fund Dore Capital, which has invested in Southeast Asia for a decade.

"Ending India and China are the places where people can look to for risk [risk] and Indonesia and Thailand are the places where people are hiding."

Rise of middle class

The shift comes as a rising middle class of consumers crowds malls from Manila to Phnom Penh, helping a region with a combined economy of $2.3 trillion stress itself off a dependency on US and European demand for exports. Improved corporate governance versus China, strong state spending on infrastructure and better fiscal management have added to the region's allure.

The booming Southeast Asian thesis is steady economic growth, but seems is set to prove 6.5 percent this year.

The Philippines economy recorded one of its fastest expansions in a year and a half, fuelled by strong consumption and state spending as President Aquino moves to upgrade decrepit infrastructure.

Even the region's "frontier" economies like Laos and Cambodia are moving on to investors' radar as there were said. Elsewhere, albeit small, expands rapidly. Two of the world's largest insurance companies announced plans to open in Myanmar this month.

In contrast, Europe is mired in a debt crisis, the United States is hobbling, and China is showing signs of a slowdown.

Longtime emerging-market darlings Brazil and India are not exhaust slump, with growth seen slowing to around 2 percent and 6 percent respectively this year.

Coming into its own

"Southeast Asia is coming into its own after being eclipsed by China for almost 10 years," said Frederic Neumann, one of the heads of Asian economic research at HSBC.

Thailand's Aseean fund breached the $2 billion level in June, and, tallying its assets by more than an times from its previous low and becoming the biggest offshore fund focusing on the region, according to Lipper data.

Thailand's net flows into offshore mutual funds stood at $1.6 billion in 2011, through June, according to data reported next July 10. By comparison, China and India offshore funds saw net outflows worth $1.6 billion and $1.3 billion, respectively.

"The consumption story is in... Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Philippines remains intact. And the demographic picture is not so clear as Thailand," said Glen Hill, co-founder of Singapore-based hedge fund Tremblay Capital. — Reuters

President surprised at Congress Cha-cha plan

By Jess Diaz

even confident they would be able to convince their respective members to agree to Constitutional amendments.

He said Charter changes was not even discussed when he met recently with Enrile and Belmonte. He said their discussion focused centered on the "Obama issue," referring to territorial disputes with China in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Still, Mr. Aquino said he was open to listening to what Enrile and Belmonte had to say on the issue, noting that the country was a "democracy."

"You have to listen to different ideas and come up with what's best for our people," he said.

Opening floodgate

Told that Belmonte and Enrile were confining for changes in the economic provisions of the Charter, such as lifting restrictions on foreign ownership in the country, the President said he had long heard of such proposals and that he was not certain whether this was the right time for the kind of changes.

Blending by his earlier statements that the economy could grow without Charter changes, Mr. Aquino pointed out that the last panel was his administration's achievement of a 6.4-percent growth in the third quarter at a time when other nations were not doing well.

"There is a saying among Americans ... don't fix what ain't broke," the President said. "Even with the present Constitution, I think we are capable of reaching economic heights for sure, and changing the Constitution dampens the sales of the game, which might delay the progress."

He said discussions on Charter changes should be done "really thoroughly" to find out from those advocating it to share the basis and proof "that such is more will redound to the benefit of our people."

The President also expressed his concern about a "theory" that "once you open the Constitution for amendments, you cannot limit the changes; the will open to all up."

He said he realizes this would open up a debate on the best method to change the Constitution and in the event a constitutional convention is agreed on, there would be a need to vote for members there and there would be republication. "I don't think there would not be done "because who will vote themselves out of office?"

"So it's not as easy thing to change the Constitution," the President said.

Problem is corruption

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago told reporters yesterday it would be better to address first the "endemic corruption" pervading the country if supporting foreign investment was the objective to amending the Constitution.

Amendments should not be piecemeal. ... Basically, you amend the whole thing," Santiago said.

She noted, however, that the congressional leaders "seem to imply that the poor state of our economy is caused only by the 60-40 provision directing Philippine businessmen which is not the case."

"The thing is, we look to capture by saying reasons but not the 60-40 requirements... Another reason why investors do not want to come here is because of home terms offered by countries in Africa and Latin America," she remarked explained.

But have their the economic provisions, Santiago said what had discouraged foreign investors more non-corruption.

"Because other states in other countries but not this extent. Our corruptions endemic. At every level you have to pay off somebody, so better if we centralize corruption so that payment would be made only to one person," she said.

Santiago said foreign investors "don't mind that all to paying, somebody else comes to demand and the first one forked down does not protect others. So not just 60-40."

Peasant protests

Militant groups yesterday lambasted the fresh push for Charter change.

The Bayan group Bilyang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (BMP) warned both chambers of Congress of "intensified peasant uprisings" if they proceed ahead. Lifting such restrictions on foreign capital ownership would be "the final nail in the coffin for genuine land reform," said BMP secretary general Ronaldo Ilukan.

"It is the height of irony and injustice that foreigners will be given full ownership and control over land and lands of landless peasants in the Philippines by no means. Needless to say, when Congress set to play with this Aquino's Charter change will surely face the wrath of the peasantry," he said.

"The move to tinker with the Constitution to lift restrictions on foreign ownership and investments in the Philippines is very dangerous. It is the equivalent of placing the entire domestic economy on bargain sale to foreign corporations, land, public utilities, services ... everything would soon be controlled by profit-seeking firms," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

He said Bayan would intensify protests on July 25 when the President station his annual state of the nation address.

"It is time when other economies are moving towards protectionism, often even outright by neoliberalism, the Philippines is gearing towards opening up its economy even more. It does not make sense at all. Our lawmakers believe that our economic salvation lies with increased foreign investments and 100 percent foreign ownership of land, utilities and other services. This kind of economic tension should be vehemently opposed," Reyes said.

President's blessings

Enrile's believers she lends push for Charter change by Belmonte and Enrile had the blessings of the President, because this coincided with the latter's program to lure investors to the country.

"Sometimes the economic provisions of the Constitution, particularly the removal of restrictions on 100 percent foreign ownership of lands and public utilities, are clearly linked with Aquino's program to attract foreign investments," he said.

Belmonte said amending the Constitution would not address the worsening poverty and landlessness in the country.

"Instead, the economic provisions will continue to worsen. Charter change will hasten the full-scale liberalization, deregulation, and privatization of the economy," Erbasan said.

6 BIR officers face raps over SALN; 1 fails lifestyle check

By Jess Diaz

year (SSC) in connection with their assets and liabilities.

The Department of Finance Revenue arraign Revenue Deputy Commissioner (RDP) Lizel Ma. Lima Jay-S. Peralta, Sandy S. Dacampang, Lance F. Hernandez, Florante C. Acibado and Ernesto S. Pineda on the charges of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) for 2010.

Peralta is based in Bacolod City, Dacampang and Hernandez in Cotabato City, and Acibado and Pineda in Legazpi City.

First time

The BIR said these are the first time it filed administrative and criminal charges in the CSC.

Charged are valuable and Pineda.

"This follows by the anti-discrimination of the respective cases filed by the BIR and BIR Revenue Regions in accordance with the Department Order No. 129-2011 issued by the Secretary of Finance on Feb. 25, 2011," the agency said.

The order orders all officials and employees of the finance department and its attached agencies, including the BIR, to submit a copy of their respective SALNs to the boards of their offices who shall, in turn, forward the documents to the finance department.

BIR said that the officers failed to submit their SALNs and certified and confirmed with the said records at the Office of the Ombudsman and the CSC.

Lifestyle check

Commissioner Kim Henares said the BIR's probe found that Hernandez declared zero SALN for ownership of a parcel of "land in Quezon City," which turned out to be valued at P1.5 million. Based on City Hall records, there are no properties only in the name of Hernandez' first of his wife and four children.

Investigation also showed that Dacampang declared in his SALN a "residence in Antipolo, Cotabato" and another "residence in Koronadal."

Based on the records of the Office of the Provincial Assessor of Sarangani, they owned a one-story residence and a three-story "residential building both located in Brgy. 28, Calungsod Street," the said building said.

Sta. Cruz property

BIR Commissioner discovered a parcel of land with a residential and commercial building in Sta. Cruz, Manila, that was not even declared in his SALN. It was registered in the names of Henriquez and his wife, and Alfa Real Estate Corp.

While disclosing only a single car worth P500,000 in his SALN, Lyndel Transportation Officer Henriquez and other documents revealed that he owned at least one more vehicle.

Enrile, a 1995 Toyota Land Cruiser, a 1995 Toyota Jeep, a 1996 Honda Civic, a 2002 Toyota Hi-Ace, a 2003 Ford Ranger, a 2005 Mitsubishi Montero, three 2009 Hi-Ace Vanes, a 2009 Toyota Jeep and a 2009 Toyota Fortuner sports utility vehicle.

Forwarder business

"When they left, Commissioner's wife was found to be the owner of the Lady of Fatima Cargo Haulers, a cargo forwarder business, located at Unit 4 North Harbor, Manila, and a beauty parlor in Sampaloc City," BIR said.

"It is not the wife nor a family member of BIR officer," Enrile added. "Contrarily, unscrupulous taxpayers declared any business interests and financial connections with BIR officials in their SALNs from years 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009."

Commissioner said it was the decision of investigation, BIR found that Enrile failed to indicate and "omitted to disclose" in his 2010 SALN, a 1975 Toyota Jeep, a 1996 Honda Civic, a 2002 Toyota Hi-Ace, a 2003 Ford Ranger, a 2005 Mitsubishi Montero, three 2009 Hi-Ace Vanes, a 2009 Toyota Jeep and a 2009 Toyota Fortuner sports utility vehicle.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Antibudget execs hit by shame campaign in Vizcaya

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Provincial officials have found themselves in the middle of a firestorm here, reaping blame for filing a suit that has caused a shutdown of government operations this week.

They blamed Rep. Carlos Padilla and his political supporters in the Nagpaisensia Pandalayopan, who criticized the court ban to raid the province's 2012 budget ordinance.

On Monday, provincial government operations stopped to comply with a 20-day temporary restraining order issued by Judge Angelito Cortez, who addressed a petition filed by nine board members seeking to nullify the budget ordinance. The petitioners claimed that the budget law was not approved by the majority members.

In social media sites like Facebook, netizens lambasted the petitioners.

"We fervently plead to Congressman Padilla for him to spare the province from his premature strategy of manipulating its affairs to further his political interests," read a text message.

Duterte vows to defy P-Noy on mining

DAVAO CITY—One of the most well known allies of President Aquino among local officials yesterday declared he would not toe Malacañang line on mining and keep supporting efforts to ban mining in this city, the biggest in the world in terms of land size.

Rodrigo Duterte, city vice mayor, said while he could agree with Mr. Aquino on the primacy of national over local laws, he would not heed policy that would allow mining in the city.

Mr. Aquino on Monday made public the issuance of his Executive Order No. 79 confirming his administration's existing policy that included a reminder that local governments that cannot have their prevail over local laws if these are enacted to curb other ore mining.

The executive order said Duterte, "will not work here." "We don't have the to legalize something in accordance with what you like to blindly," said Duterte in one episode of his TV program here.

Duterte said Davao City will remain off limits to mining and that there was an issue need to pass an ordinance or support that effect.

He said he and city officials will consolidate words into action by rejecting every existing application in any part of the city.

Two districts in the city—Paquibato and Marilog—are believed mineral-rich.

In Tagum City, Congresswoman Sidney Time Antonio Uy said the local government's problem is how to deal with small-scale miners who are operating in areas that have been declared as mining zones, particularly in Mabini area in town.

Uy said aiming in Mabini area has been going on since the 1980s and local officials are unable to stop the influx of people in search of quick riches there.

"This is really a big problem," said the governor. He said the provincial government wants to discuss possible solutions with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Mr. Aquino's EO No. 79 identified gold-rich Compostela Valley as a no-mining zone, which Uy questioned.

"I don't think the entire province should be under that mining ban because, if that would be the case, what would happen now to the thousands of people making a living in our mining areas," said the governor.

A pro-mining official, Mayor Marivic Guanzon of Kiblawan, Davao del Sur, said Mr. Aquino's mining policy could usher in a better future for her people.

Guanzon said while the President's EO banned mining in Davao del Sur, it exempted existing mining operations like the one by Sumifru Bagiuo Inc. (SMI).

The mayor said she believed the EO prevails over an ordinance banning open pit mining in South Cotabato, one of the biggest gambling blocks to SMI's full operations.

A leader of the International human rights group Amnesty International (AI) urged government to side with local communities in regulating mining.

Rita Lee Ramos III, chair of AI Philippines, said the cancer of large-scale mining in the Philippines has reached alarming levels.

Ramos cited a government report saying the amount of land that mining permits and claims all over the country cover has risen to 1.4 million hectares or 5.6 percent of the country's total land area. —Jeoffrey Lacaveri, Princess Lim, Orlando Dino and Judy Quiroz, *Inquirer Mindanao*

Mayor claims Church backing sustains armed group vs SMI

DIGOS CITY—The mayor of a town that would host facilities to be used for what is touted to be one of the biggest gold mines in the world accused Catholic priests of supporting members of a rebel community who are waging an armed struggle against the mining operations.

The charge was quickly disputed by leaders of the Church in South Cotabato, where the Australian firm Xstrata, one of the biggest mining companies in the world, wants to operate the Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI).

SMI seeks to extract billions of dollars worth of gold buried in Tampakan, a town in South Cotabato, in operations that critics said would displace communities of the B'laan tribe in the three provinces (South Cotabato, Davao del Sur and Sultan Kudarat) that will be affected by the mining operation covering at least 24,717 hectares.

Marivic Guanzon, mayor of Kiblawan, Davao del Sur, said she received reports that some priests in South Cotabato are supporting armed B'laan natives who have launched armed attacks on SMI targets, including the B'laan's society officers.

SMI holds a Financial Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA), government jargon for a permit to clear land to be used as sites for tailings ponds and other mining facilities. It hasn't acquired an environmental clearance certificate or a Memoral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA), which is a permit to actually start digging.

Dimasanto said while she was verifying whether it was true that Church people were supporting violent opposition to SMI by some members of the B'laan tribe, "I am greatly disturbed."

The mayor quoted her informants as saying priests in the Diocese of Marbel, which covers the town nursing site in Tampakan, are supplying food to the armed group members.

Fr. Joy Pelino, head of the Social Action Center of the Marbel diocese, said the reports being cited by the mayor were just "products of her wild imagination."

According to Mayor Guanzon's priests in the diocese are providing members of the B'laan community led by the brothers Lapion—Dagil, Bitan and Ilatan—rides are allegedly behind a series of armed attacks on SMI and other targets associated with the mining operation.

The group said on the Cagayan were "engaged many suspects in the killing about two weeks ago of Silliamondo Hedan, a retired policeman hired by SMI as security consultant.

Dimasanto said the armed members of the B'laan tribe, whom she called bandits, survive in the mountains with the direct help of supporters that included Church leaders.

Fr. Pelino, however, said the Church does not select which group should receive aid. He said the Church did supply food to members of the tribe who are undergoing, particularly those living in Brog Hill, a village in Tampakan that would displace from the map if mining operations there proceed. —Delmo do Mayo and Aquiles Zonio, *Inquirer Mindanao*

Streamers grabbing credit for pols removed

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Controversial streamers with images of Iloilo City Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog and five city councilors have been removed from two government projects after they drew flak from residents and businessmen.

Jeffrey Celis, Mabilog's political liaison officer, said the mayor ordered the removal of the streamer at the public plaza of Molo District on Wednesday.

"The mayor ordered the removal of the streamer in deference to negative reactions from some sectors of the community," Celis said.

Mabilog, who is abroad, earlier said he did not order the putting up of the streamers but noted nothing wrong with them because the councilors had helped in the approval and implementation of the project that the streamers are claiming credit for.

He had said that the streamers would be removed once the projects were completed.

Another streamer, which was placed at an ongoing Iloilo River esplanade project in Mandurriao district, was also removed.

Aside from Mabilog, the images of councilors Winchel Nava, II Leone Gensoñe, Bodel Agudo, Lyndira Aying and Joffran Alim were also placed on the streamers. The five councilors have been collectively dubbed in the city council as "Yolanda V" for voting as a block.

The unsigned, unpaid-for streamer, which declares support for the government projects, drew criticism from media and concerned citizens who viewed the materials as unethical and part of politicking months before the filing of candidacies for next year's elections.

A REGISTRANT's fingerprint appears on the screen of a computer being operated by a Commission on Elections worker in Maxia, Lanao del Sur. Comelec is using biometrics to reduce, if not eliminate, fraud in the registration of voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. REUTERS/ROMEO RANOCO

ARMM registration has unlikely model

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Sulu is emerging as an unlikely model of the campaign to eradicate fraud in the registration of voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The province, where the Jamidi group Abu Sayyaf is active, is also emerging as the most peaceful site of the registration in the region known for bloodshed during elections.

Election Commissioner Lucenito Tagle, in charge of registration in Sulu, said Comelec personnel in the province reported no problems common in other ARMM provinces during the registration period which started on July 9.

No cases of illegal registrants or violence during the registration were reported in Sulu, Tagle said.

"We haven't encountered any minors or double registrants up to now," Tagle said.

What's bugging the process in Sulu, he said, was the shortage of electricity. Comelec is using generator sets in its registration premises in the province but supply power to customers that use biometrics to establish the identities of registrants.

A steady supply of power is needed for five computers, he said.

"Overall, the registration was smooth for the first three days," said Tagle.

In Basilan, despite the brief delay in the start of the registration on July 9, the activity went on smoothly, according to Election Commissioner Elias Yusoph, who is in charge of registration in the province.

Yusoph said Comelec personnel did not report registrants being bused into precincts in the first three days of the registration in Basilan.

He said he hoped registration in the province proceeds smoothly, despite the assassination of Gov. Jim Salliman and Vice Gov. Hadji Hilarion Ajibon, who were killed in an ambush on Thursday last week.

Yusoph said the two officials' deaths is ARMM is dawning.

"There'll be no more dead persons casting their votes or even registering after this general registration," Yusoph said.

As of Wednesday, Yusoph said 9,313 persons had registered in Basilan.

He said the Comelec expects more registrants to troop to precincts until July 18, the last day of the registration period.

Prior to the registration, Basilan was listed as having 177,000 voters.

"We expect them to flock to the centers in the last two days," Yusoph said.

In Marawi City, Lt. Col. Harold Bienarth, head of the 44th Infantry Battalion, said soldiers have prevented suspected flying registrants from entering Lanao del Sur province.

Since Monday, Bienarth said at least 21 vehicles carrying suspected flying voters have been turned away by soldiers manning checkpoints.

Bienarth said in Buayan town, three civilians were wounded after they were shot by an unidentified suspect near a registration center. —Jude Esguerra and Michel Orial, *Inquirer Mindanao*

Vice governor clarifies ransom report is unconfirmed

DAVAO CITY—The vice governor of Agusan del Sur yesterday clarified that the Inquirer report quoting him as saying that the New People's Army had demanded P25 million in ransom for three mining officials the rebel group abducted following a raid in Bunawan town was unconfirmed.

Vice Gov. Santiago Cane said he did not say the report about the alleged ransom demand was true.

The July 7 Inquirer issue carrying the story said Cane told the Inquirer by phone that the rebels wanted P25 million in exchange for the freedom of Christopher Ortiz, Enos Abuyo and Joel Jayama.

The three officials of STD Mining Inc. were snatched by communist guerrillas in an early morning raid in Sitio Sapao 3 village on July 5. They were released a few days later.

Cane, in a text message, said he was "very disappointed with the story."

"I never told you that there was a demand of P25 million. I only texted you [that] there were unconfirmed reports about it," he said.

The vice governor said he was bothered by the story as this could endanger his life.

In a statement, Jorge Madlos alias Ka Oris, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Mindanao, denied that rebels demanded money or guns for the freedom of the mining firm officials. —Nestor Luis, *Inquirer Mindanao*

VIEW from a resort in Boracay, the world-famous resort island Abaloz what a Supreme Court order said should be left untouched

SC stops ₱1-B reclamation plan seen threat to Boracay ecology

By Marlon Ramos

BORACAY ISLAND, recently named by an international travel magazine as the world's best island destination for 2012, must be left untouched.

The Supreme Court has indefinitely suspended the ₱1-billion reclamation project on the beach paradise due to the failure of the Aklan provincial government to conduct public consultations and a thorough study of the project's effect on the environment.

Acting on the petition filed by a group of resort owners, the high court issued a writ of continuing mandamus ordering the local government unit (LGU) of Aklan, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) to stop all activities in connection with the ₱1-billion reclamation project.

Unanimous vote

Voting unanimously, the court convicted the temporary environment protection order it issued on June 7, 2011, into an indefinite suspension of construction projects in Boracay and the nearby Banuyan Tabon in Malay town on mainland Aklan, which serves as a takeoff point to the beach island.

"Any impact on the Boracay style cannot be easily ignored so Gotchet entitlement on environment by a narrow mind," the tribunal said in a 66-page ruling written by Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro.

"In the meantime, the [Aklan provincial government, the DENR and PRA]... shall immediately cease and desist from continuing the implementation of the project... until further orders from this court," the resolution added.

The ₱1-billion masterplan aims to reclaim 40 ha from the sea, an area nearly twice the size of the University of Santo Tomas campus in Manila, to help accommodate the growing tourist arrivals in the world-rated island.

Changing island's shape

But the high court said allowing the carving of the key-shaped island "[because more] impressive revenue of the significant contributions of Boracay's white-sand beach to the country's economy."

It said the writ of mandamus allowed the court to "refrain or restrain any other judgment in order to ensure the successful implementation of the relief mandated under the court's decision."

In its petition, the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), an organization of some 60 beach operators on the island, claimed the ambitious project would only lead to the destruction of the world-famous tourist destination.

The high court said construction and other activities along the coastline of Boracay required Aklan "to proceed with utmost caution in implementing projects within its vicinity".

"The Local Government Code establishes the duties of national government agencies in the enhancement of ecological balance and requires them to secure prior public consultation and approval of local government units for the purpose," said the ruling.

Garbage, sewage

The court cautioned that the operation of BFI that the construction of more business establishments on the island "could cause pollution as it could generate garbage, sewage and possible toxic fluid discharge."

In ordering the Aklan provincial government to secure necessary permits, the court dismissed the argument of the DENR's Environment Management Bureau (EMB) in Western Visayas that DENR Memorandum Circular 2007-08 exempted LGUs from obtaining permits for their projects.

"This is because a memorandum circular cannot prevail over the Local Government Code, which is a statute and which grants government units the sole authority of 'first use' of land," it ruled.

The tribunal also stressed that "prior considerations and prior approval" from residents, nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders are required by law "to have been conducted and secured" by the Aklan provincial government.

"Accordingly, the environment clearance certificate [it] had already been issued was insufficient to comply with this requirement under the [law]," it said.

Now or old?

The court ordered DENR-EMB to determine if the project was a single or a "redesigned" project and if it should be classified as a new project or just an expansion of the existing jetty pier in Caticlan.

It said DENR-EMB must also submit within three months a report on the impact of the reclamation project to the environment "based on new, updated and comprehensive studies."

On the other hand, the court instructed the Aklan provincial government to meet with various NGOs, other organizations and individuals who would be affected by the project.

It said the tribunal required that also seek approval from the 48 resort owners covered by the project and to closely cooperate with the DENR-EMB.

Top officials of Isabela reject new probe of Padaca's loan deal

ILAGAN, Isabela—Provincial officials have objected to a proposed inquiry into a ₱25-million loan facility for which former Gov. Grace Go-Padaca now faces graft charges.

"Any form of investigation on the ₱25-million graft case would be tantamount to sub judice," said Isabela Gov. Faustino Jr. Ill, who objected to a request from former Gov. Tom Santiago, Bonifacio for the provincial board to inquire into the charges.

It was Bonifacio's complaint in 2009 that led to the filing of graft charges at the sandiganbayan against Padaca and four officers of a nongovernment organization.

Padaca, who lost to Dy III in the 2010 elections, was accused of allowing the Economic Development for Western Isabela and Southern Luzon Foundation Inc. (EDSWELU), a nongovernment organization, to administer a ₱25-million loan program meant for local livelihood projects instead of entrusting the public bidding.

PADACA

"An inquiry as to the status of the payment of the loan is even more appropriate than an investigation into the case," Dy III said.

Provincial records show that only ₱7 million out of the ₱25 million had been received by the Isabela officials who took out the loan from the program.

Vice Gov. Rodolfo Albano III and board member Proserpina Ignacio Ramos Jr., provincial legal officer, said in separate interviews that they agreed with the governor's position not to endorse Bonifacio's request.

"While I am sitting as the vice governor, I will not allow such investigation because of its legal implication on [the] people under committee of the court," Albano said. Villamor Mayo Jr., *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

INC building arena tagged PH's biggest

CITY OF MALOLOS—The Iglesia ni Cristo announced last week that its construction of the Philippine Arena in Bocaue and Sta. Maria town, Bulacan province, will be the country's biggest coliseum.

The construction of more than 35,000 hectares of church land in Gracia de Victoria took place on Tuesday, said Board Member Michael Nyman, who chairs the committee on tourism and education.

Nyman said the church project will afford Bulacan the chance to host international and national events like the annual Pahiyas Festival.

The Arena is halfway through and is expected to be unveiled on INC's centennial celebrations in July 2014.

The project is estimated to cost the church ₱9.4 billion.

Carmela Reyes-Dilayan, Inquirer Central Luzon

Past month a roller-coaster ride for Dolphy's family

MORE ALONG THE PAPER Dolphy the homebody was alive and well when he and longtime partner Zoe Ess opened their home to PDN in 2009.

Dolphy a true humanitarian, says Gordon

By Inquirer Staff

BECAUSE laughter is the best medicine, Dolphy also belonged in a truly humanitarian class.

Richard Gordon, a former senator and chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, and Red Cross Governor Rene Bondi, herself a former actress, sent their sympathies and condolences to the bereaved family of the king of comedy who died on Tuesday.

"He (Dolphy) ended and we lost a genuine humanitarian today," Gordon, who was traveling in Bacolod (Negros), said on his Facebook account.

"Having his end (it) to make millions of Filipinos smile for over six decades is testament to the means that laughter is the best medicine. His compassion for others extends to the fabric of every Filipino's life as embodied by John Paranoong and Kevin Costas. His movies and weekly sitcoms have molded us each week in an adherence to traditional Filipino values and the affirmation of the Filipino family as the true core of our national heritage," Gordon said.

He said Dolphy's well-known acts of kindness to people in the entertainment industry and beyond was "a mirror of his true persona."

Every comedian loses

He said that the king of comedy was "an artist of the ecstatic that has long been bequeathed to each by every comedian Jesus."

"With his passing, we close the curtains of an era of genuine stars whose light shone in the firmament of our nation's heart," he said.

Quezon City officials led by Mayor Herbert Bautista, himself a former actor, joined the chance to declare Dolphy a national artist.

Bautista said in a statement that Dolphy, his godfather, "unstintingly has made to the Philippine entertainment industry." The mayor ordered the Philippine flag at City Hall to fly at half-mast.

Actor Alfred Vargas, a Quezon City councilor, filed a resolution commending Dolphy for his "remarkable talent, valuable contribution and achievements, making him one of the greatest actors in the history of Philippine entertainment."

"Even as he attained stardom, the late Dolphy never failed to look back to his roots as he shared his blessings with the less fortunate, particularly his colleagues in the movie industry," another Quezon City councilor, Candy Medina, said in a separate resolution.

Alma Moreno

Alma Moreno, a Batangas councilor who is one of the veterans in Dolphy's life, told reporters yesterday she was notified instantly sent by his buddies when he died.

She said she got the sad news from Amdolph, her only child with the 82-year-old comedian. "Ma, andi na si Papa," were the first text message that sent her sobbing.

Moreno spoke with fondness about Dolphy while attending an event of the Philippine Councilors' League, of which she is the president, at the Senate yesterday.

She said she had not yet gone to the wake because she had to attend to her many political obligations, but that she would do so soon.

The former actress said the last time she idling Dolphy when she paid him a visit at the intensive care unit of Makati Medical Center, her last words to him were that of assurance that she would take care of their only child.

"I told always to be behaved him," she said. she had told Dolphy she'd taking a leaf from Dolphy's signature punch lines, she told his band, renowned his preservice mask and said: "Dolphy look at me. I'm still pretty."

It was clear that Moreno's pretty's only one of the reasons she's searching over Amdolph, a constant companion of his father ever since he was a child. The facial was so strong that the son had his father's image tattooed on his arm recently.

"Marou, it's like Papa is still with me," she recalled Amdolph telling her. With reports from Jerome Aning, Julie M. Aurelio and Christian V. Esguerra

BOX OFFICE HIT Like his movies, fans patiently wait in line to see him last wake for the last time at Heritage Memorial Park in Taguig City.

P-Noy backs national artist honor

From page A1

Noli before dawn yesterday—humor allow people to find comfort even in times when it's a rare hour celebrated show "Hamdog ni Pilot," at the ABS-CBN studios in Quezon City.

The President acknowledged a growing clamor to declare Dolphy a national artist, he, who entertained millions of Filipinos tough through good times and bad over six decades as the king of comedy on stage, radio, television and movies.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) announced yesterday that while the PNCA recognized the claim or to confer the award on Dolphy the policy remained that any nominee would have to undergo the selection process.

"As fully recognize and appreciate his artistic contributions to the country—encompassing several generations. He was able to lighten the burden of living for many Filipinos because of his sense of humor which appeal very much to the Filipinos, and afford, on national pass, especially during times of crisis," the NCCA said in a statement mourning the death of Dolphy.

The NCCA and the Cultural Center of the Philippines assures nominees and submit a list of seven national artists awardees for the President's approval.

NCCA Chair Felipe de Leon Jr. told reporters on Wednesday that the commission may ponder, merely grant Dolphy a separate honor, the Dangal ng Bayan lifetime achievement award, which is given every February. It is the highest award given by the commission to those who have made a significant contribution to Philippine culture and arts.

De Leon called Dolphy a "national treasure" and "a true genius of the film and television industry." However, he said that the selection process for the national artist award was "too slow" as it had to screen hundreds of nominees, and the commission lacked personnel and had limited budget.

He noted that the late comedian was nominated for national artist in 2009 and was said to be "carried over" to the next year's nominations. The selection process started this month and ends November.

In the interview with reporters yesterday, Mr. Aquino noted that there was still a pending case in the Supreme Court that questioned the declaration of the late comedian.

"We don't want a repeat of this," he said, referring to the controversy over awards granted by the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal to movie director Carlos Caparas, among others.

Mr. Aquino said he deeply respected Dolphy, who he stressed helped society very much through the arts he had pursued all his life. "He helped a lot of people and we really need to highlight him as a good example for the next generation," the President said.

Malacañang announced last night that the President declared today a National Day of Remembrance in honor of the late actor.

"The President tells all our countrymen to reflect on the act of sacrifice, the personal bravery and generosity, and deep patriotism, of Dolphy, and the manner in which he exemplified in his works and life, the positive values of the Filipino people. The President asks all our countrymen to make this Day of Remembrance a celebration of the full life that Dolphy with utmost generosity shared with the country," the Palace said in a statement.

Dolphy later mobilized a 25-member security force for the requested surge of base at his wake, according to Senior Supt. Tomas Apolonario Jr., chief of the Taguig Police.

The family announced there would be a public viewing from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. until tomorrow. He will be buried at 1 p.m. on Sunday also at Heritage Park.

With reports from Marinel R. Cruz and Mathieson E. Mercado

By Marinel R. Cruz

NOBODY "Dolphy" Quiroz fought for his life to be with his family up to the last minutes but his body was just too weak, according to his son Eric.

"Dad died peacefully knowing to my siblings, there was no pain. It was like he just slowly ceased to the light," Eric, who acted as the family's spokesperson, told reporters on Wednesday night during his father's wake at the Dolphy Theater in the ABS-CBN Studios in Quezon City.

The actor-director was working on the set of a TV show in Bataan when his father died.

"From (Crossed) Rizza, I spoke with my sisters Jeanne and Rhodjenia. I would call every 10 minutes to ask about his condition," Eric recalled. "8:30 p.m., I was already aware that something was going on, although I was hoping it would reverse."

Dolphy died on Tuesday night of multiple organ failure brought about by acute pneumonia, renal failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He would have been 84 on July 25. He remains lie-in-Heritage Memorial Park in Taguig City.

The past month had been a roller-coaster ride for the family," Eric said. "Sometimes Dad was OK, sometimes he wasn't. I had hoped that the last one was just one of those episodes and that he would recover from it. I guess it came to a point when his body could no longer tolerate the medication. He fought hard, but his body was just too weak. We're all suffering now. We're all vulnerable. We're mourning for our father."

Overwhelming support

Aside from buying himself a coffin in 1977, Dolphy never discussed with anyone what he wanted for his own funeral, Eric said.

"Whenever we would ask, or possibly when we found out about his COPD [in 2009], he would always say 'let's see.' So based to see his loved ones enjoy the business of him," he said.

He thanked the public for its "overwhelming support."

"Because everyone prayed for him, we got our wish—to spend more time with him. We realized how much people loved dad and when this happened. We had been inquiries from abroad and we followed by sons," he said.

Stories had already surrounded all of Dolphy's 18 children, some of whom were living abroad, together when the comedian was diagnosed with Stage 4 COPD in 2009, said his Zoe Padilla, his longtime partner.

"At that time, his condition had already gotten worse," Padilla said in her eulogy on Wednesday night. "I realized that, faced with this situation, all the issues within the family could actually be resolved. It was actually possible to unite all of Dolphy's children from different mothers, especially during his last month."

"This is not a conventional family, but it was a family that I learned how to love and be loved," said Padilla, Dolphy's partner for 22 years.

Through the years

"I really miss him," Padilla declared. "Sometimes, if Dolphy makes me smile ... While in the hospital, I always pestered him. I would call him, 'Lemy-lem!' and he would react like he got startled. That's our gauge for knowing if he's really conscious."

Aside from her speech by singing some lines from her favorite song "Through the Years." Padilla and Dolphy have two daughters—Zia and Nicole.

Eric said the family felt lost and when major foreign news organizations like the CNN, The New York Times and Fox News, reported Dolphy's death.

"It's like we didn't think my dad was larger than life. I guess he made such a huge impact on the Filipino people that international networks are now covering his death and are sympathizing with the nation," Noli Cardoña, 19, said.

Eric also stated that his father's death caused all competing broadcast networks. "They're all planning to set tributes to my father. The only way to do that is to have his body of work," he explained, adding that then will have to help each other. There are materials in channels 2, 5 and 7 that have to be put together."

An estimated crowd of 4,000 paid their respects to the comedian at the Dolphy Theater from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight, according to events marshal Buffy Cruzcan. Dolphy's remains were transferred to Heritage Park at 5 a.m. yesterday.

A celebration of life

Songs from Dolphy's first and only album, "Hunting in Pilot," were heard inside the 300-seat auditorium. White flowers—roses, daisies and anthuriums—were found all over the area. Guests were served pares with lahon? bahoy and some during the wake by Restaurant 9501 Binagoongan, Isaw, boiled saging, rice and pansit were offered during dinnertime.

According to Cibi Guerrero, ABS-CBN Creative Consultant, two years of scars at the Dolphy Theater had to be removed to accommodate the comedian's gold-plated coffin. Another new in the balcony was taken down to accommodate scenes of those covering the event. Only those for the exhibition stage were allowed only for family members, close friends and VIPs.

Guerrero's team produced the show "Salamat, The Dolphy Legendo-en Fiesta ng Komedya," which was aired live on Studio 23 on Wednesday.

Among those who performed were Pinky Amador, Boy Alcala, Rhap Salazar, Jed Madela, Vina Morales, Erik Santos and 9Z Alfie Tiu Calong Edward Benedicto and Ogie Alcasid, while ABS-CBN president Charo Santos-Concio talked about Dolphy's impact on Filipino society. Kris Aquino, Sid Lucero and Toni Gonzaga hosted the show.

"I already know what kind of program Dolphy liked," Guerrero said. "I told production, 'Let's make it a celebration of his life.' He would have wanted the people to be fun. I asked those who agreed to speak to come up with funny anecdotes about Dolphy. It was hard to convince Sosa Villa (Dolphy's costar in Home Along da Riles") to speak because she said she couldn't promise not to cry."

WANDERLUST, the comedian's son with actress Alma Moreno, gets a comforting hug from wife Jenny during the neurological service.

ALMA VILLA, Dolphy's partner in the long-running sitcom "Home Along da Riles," breaks down during an emotional speech in last night's tribute at the Dolphy Theater in ABS-CBN.

LEGENDS FOR LAPID (Far right) Sen. Lito Lapid who visits the wake for the man who saved him ...

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DID YOU KNOW

THE UNIVERSITY Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) was formally organized as a permanent sports association on Sept. 27, 1938. Originally with four member schools, its first sports events were basketball, women's volleyball, baseball, football, swimming and track and field. As of last season, the UAAP has eight member schools and features 15 regular sports. *Orlando I. Quindoza, Inquirer Research*

Councilor's son sued for Citibank theft

DOJ: He took ₱138M from clients

By Marlon Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DOJ) has ordered the filing of 87 counts of qualified theft against the son of Manila Councilor Bernie Ang who allegedly pocketed close to P138 million in bank deposits.

Francis Bryan Ang, 36, reportedly fled the country after officials of Citibank—where he worked as assistant vice president of the Global wealth management unit—discovered in 2010 that he had been transferring the money of his clients into his personal account.

However, the DOJ panel headed by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Ma. Emilia Vinovia dismissed the complaint of wash against the younger Ang for lack of evidence.

At the same time, it absolved his suspected Olivet Salud, Shirjeh Nas, Joanne Salud, Joann Karla Uy Robinson Ilao, Steven Uy, Philip Keith Ang, Esther Cobio Ang, Antonio Ramon and Belkis Garcia of any complicity in the fraudulent transactions.

In a 57-page resolution, the DOJ said Ang himself "had admitted that he "feigned" with the accounts of several clients, mostly Chinese-Filipino businessmen, of the Citibank Ilaondo branch in Manila.

"There is no gainsaying that as relationship manager of the accounts subject of these cases, (Ang) took advantage of his position which he prepared or caused the ... fund transfers ... without the knowledge, consent or authorization of the account holders and the bank," it added.

The DOJ panel also said that the accused "gravely abused the trust and confidence given to him by the bank and his victims that he was able to access the accounts "without the use of violence or intimidation."

"On the issue of whether (Ang) acted in conspiracy with the other named respondents, the panel rules in the negative," it said, noting that conspiracy "transcends mere relationship, partnership or association."

In a separate statement, the DOJ said Ang "appropriated the funds as his own" and transferred them to other accounts, including those of his other clients, "to meet the rate of return he promised them."

"He avoided detection by ... changing the client's addresses so the bank recorded in their systems meant for them will be directed to his associate," the DOJ said.

"He also admitted offering true deposit interest rates to these clients (but were higher than those) offered by the bank, without the latter's consent or knowledge from his superiors."

In a statement, Citibank said: "We welcome this development as Citi continues to vigorously pursue the criminal and civil cases filed against Francis Bryan Ang related to the isolated incident which the bank discovered in 2010. Only a few clients were impacted, and their losses resulting from this incident have been refunded in full."

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ENCLOSED IN GREEN Fishermen in Sto. Nino, Tuguegarao City look for a good spot to cast up their nets over small thick patches of water hyacinths.

After drawing much flak, MMDA relaxes Edsa 'yellow lane' rule

By Nathaniel C. Halcon

DRAWING flak from motorists and commuters over the revised "yellow lane" policy, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Thursday agreed to relax some of the rules for buses plying Edsa.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino yesterday issued a memorandum spelling out changes in the lane coverage, which unexpectedly took effect on the 4th of June.

The MMDA is now allowing both provincial and city buses to use the Ortigas flyover if they are northbound. These buses can also use the Magallanes interchange, whether they are going north or south.

Provincial buses have also been allowed to take the third lane of Edsa, the one immediately after the yellow lanes.

However, all provincial and city buses are still not allowed to use the innermost and outermost lanes on the 24-km highway.

Tolentino issued the memo following Wednesday's meeting with some 50 bus operators, who gave their feedback and suggestions on the yellow lane policy, which has been causing heavy traffic on Edsa since Monday.

The meeting attracted strong reservations from dominant loading and unloading zones and give buses only 25 seconds to pass at those stations.

The MMDA also said it would again severely enforce its so-called "closed-door" policy for buses, which means that those vehicles, whether on city and provincial routes, must keep their doors closed when outside loading and unloading zones.

Tolentino, citing his power to issue "show cause" orders regarding fines for traffic offenses, said some revisions would be made on the closed-door rule.

For buses with two doors, he said, the bus driver will be fined P1,000 if the door near the front of the vehicle is left open, while the conductor will be penalized if it's the door near the rear.

For "Definitive" buses, the fine operator will be the one fined, he said.

Chairman Cayetano, MMDA assistant general manager for operations, expressed hope that the new rules would have immediate effect on traffic conditions on Edsa.

"We expect that the enhanced will really go after violators of the memorandum circular, especially on the closed-door policy. They and their immediate supervisors will face sanctions if found not implementing any of these provisions," he said.

Baby Asistio son arrested after robbery conviction

By Kristine Felicia Margareza

THE POLICE on Thursday arrested a son of former Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio on a warrant issued by a local court following his conviction for robbery.

Chief Insp. Rodrigo Bautista, head of the Caloocan police investigation, said Luis Asistio Jr., 45, was conceived to the city jail following his arrest at the Monumento area at around 6 a.m.

The younger Asistio was recently found guilty of robbery with physical injuries by Judge Thelma Aguirre of Caloocan Regional Trial Court Branch 129, in a case filed by a businessman in 2009, according to the city chief of police, Senior Supt. Jude Sanford.

Asistio, also known as "Ferjay," was accused of hitting a diamond ring worth P56,000 from Joey Ivo Rhondale and bearing him up in a room at Q-33 Motel in Barangay Bagong, Caloocan, in April 2009, Sanford said.

Together with a colleague, Michael Paul Batad, Asistio also took Marcellino's cell phone and camera and forced him to withdraw from the P50,000, the official added.

Batad, who was arrested earlier, positively identified Asistio as Marcellino's attacker during questioning, Sanford said.

MetroBriefs

Binay's driver arrested for hit-and-run accident

A DRIVER of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay Jr. was arrested yesterday morning after he hit with his car a teenager and his father who were crossing at the corner of Buendia Highway and East Avenue, Diliman in San Andres Bukid, Manila. Rolando Bunsay was driving his 14-year-old son Jonathan, to school around 6 a.m. when they were hit by the Mitsubishi Adventure being driven by Eduardo Herrera Jr. The boy died on the spot after he was ejected from the car and was dragged for at least 10 meters, while the father suffered a leg injury. Both the victims were crossing the pedestrian lane when they were hit. Herrera, meanwhile, sped away and tried to escape but was caught after PO1 Edwin Bautista, a representative of the Manila Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit (MPD-TEU), gave chase. When arrested, Herrera yielded a fugitive car. All policemen were brought to the MPD-TEU office for investigation, said PO2 Rhenz Gaerlan. Vice President Jejomar Binay's spokesperson Joey Salgado confirmed that Herrera is an employee of the younger Binay. He said that Herrera was only driving the car because the boy's father "would have to face the charges (against him)," Mayor Binay, according to Salgado, has promised to help the victims' family. **Jeannette I. Andrade**

Teenager nabbed for illegal recruitment

A TEENAGER was arrested on Tuesday afternoon by two of eight applicants/workers who claimed he duped them into paying large sums of amount for nonexistent jobs in a Edsa-based ship. Christian Dulce Bellering, 19, a resident of Cavite City, was arrested in the hotel garage where he operates and claimed he had connections with two different shipping lines, for which he was paid. They added that he asked them for sums ranging from P10,000 to P15,000 for the processing of their job applications. Bellering was charged on Wednesday with estafa and illegal recruitment in the City Prosecutor's Office and then turned over to the custody of the Manila Police District General Assignment Section. Task Force Disappearance PO1 Gilbert Sosa said that Bellering was contacted by his victims after they made a citizens' arrest after they became suspicious when he failed to produce the credentials as a chief engineer and his application from the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency. **Jeannette I. Andrade**

Tesol Certificate Course at Claret

THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED Tesol certificate Course (for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) will be held from July 18-30 at Claret School of Quezon City, Sto. Niño Village, Bohol on City. The course is recognized by leading global universities, and is backed by the world's leading publishers of ELT/ESL (English as a Foreign Language/English as a Second Language). The Tesol certificate is accredited by international employers, and is one of the few in the world that requires actual teaching practice with live students (no role-play or videos). Practice components, teaching/reading and writing tests, Pronunciation Training, and Student Assessment. The fee is P18,000 for local enrollees and $1,200 for foreign enrollees. To register, contact Ben Cayetano at (632) 853-2480 or ganzon_cayetano@yahoo.com, or Pearl Bautista at 0918-409-6886 or pearlgabonada@gmail.com and Rina Tang-uan at 924-9987 local 200 or claret@pearlfarmer.com.

Seedling bank chief slams QC gov't takeover

By John Paolo Bencito

THE HEAD of the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation Inc. assailed the takeover of its center in Quezon City, a plan that had gained momentum under Mayor Herbert Bautista. "It looks like they are in a hurry to take control of it," Bautista said.

The foundation's lawyers are now working on its new legal steps to prevent the city government from permanently taking over the property, which they said was loaned from the National Housing Authority.

On Tuesday, City Hall wrote a letter to MSBFI asking it to vacate the area after the one-year redemption period for unclaimed properties had lapsed.

Last year, the city threatened to demolish the dilapidated structures in the center, which is located at the corner of Quezon Avenue and Edsa, citing the MSBFI's failure to settle P57.308 million in real property tax from 2000 and 2011.

But the foundation's lawyer, Atty. Paglinawan K., earlier maintained that the MSBFI should not be held liable for the unpaid taxes under the Civil Code.

Bautista echoed the view, stressing that the MSBFI had been diligently paying its employees' salaries since it was the center was exempted from real property taxes under Presidential Decree (PD) 1674, which allowed MSBFI to occupy the disputed lot since 1977 and gave it "unrestricted use" as a lessee of 9846 properties.

"The city government should have gone through the process. There should be a court order. (The eviction order) should not be through a mere letter like that," Bautista said.

Bautista said the MSBFI had been helping the government and the private sector in protecting the environment by propagating various plant species, selling and planting trees, and reforesting areas in many parts of Luzon.

The foundation also gathers and showcases the best flowers from Mindoro and Baguio, and accommodates students in educational trips free of charge, he added.

IT PAYS TO SPAY Riding on the popularity of the cursing London Olympics, three members of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals or Peta, with their bodies painted gold, silver and bronze, urge the public to take care of their pets by having them spayed or neutered. AGIS QUOS

Gambling debts seen behind family carnage

By Jeannette I. Andrade

PRINTING problems brought about by gambling debts may have driven a 39-year-old jewelry to kill himself after bludgeoning his estranged 8-year-old son to death early Wednesday in Tondo, Manila.

The gambler-jeweler, who was fighting and apparently lost a lot of money, SPO1 Jonathan Moreno of the Manila Police District Homicide section said at the location.

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The bodies of the couple and that of their son were discovered in their bedroom by Cristely mother-in-law around midnight on Wednesday.

The bodies of the couple and that of their son were discovered in their bedroom by Cristely mother-in-law around midnight on Wednesday.

The boy lay on the bed with a wound in the head, next to his mother whose head was wrapped in a blood-stained blanket. A furniture was found near their bodies.

Crucial, who lives a gambler wounded in the head, was found slumped on the side of the bed, with the pistol next to his hand.

From Escolta's future to Tondo's tomboys, confab explores Manila

PAPERS highlighting various aspects of Manila's history and culture, as well as studies on how these relate to national history, will be presented at the 21st annual conference of the Manila Studies Association for.

The conference, to be held on July 15-16 at the Ateneo de Manila University of the Sacred Heart (University) in Sampaloc, Manila, is cosponsored with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts-Committee on Historical Research and PHEC.

The papers to be presented are, "Philippine Archaeological Sites and their Context" by Jose M. Guevara, Redmond Mancenido of the Philippines' "Manila: A Frontier City," Joel T. Arcilla, S.J., Ateneo de Manila University; "Where is Sampaloc, Manila? Cartographic Reflections at the Edges of the Spanish and American Colonial Period," Martin Gordon, Independent researcher, "Reinventing Revolts and Its Environs through Historic Preservation," Norma L. Alarcon, University of Santo Tomas;

"Honorable Homosexuals: Art Sto. Tomas de Aquino 300 Years of Labor of Love, Work of Faith and Synchronicity of Hope," Willem B. Claus, FRD, "Vigan de los Dasmariñas del Este: Sacred Space, Syncretism and the Geopolitics of Building Image," Jose Alain Aquino, De la Salle University-College of Art, Bradley Ang Mga Batis or Tondo as Lapulapu Tondo," Gil Collantes Jr., University of the Philippines Diliman; "Mind and Imagination/Environment of the Youth in Shaw, 1952-2012," Angelito S. Shaw, UP Pampanga.

"The Path Guards of Manila and its Environs, 1861-1864: a Preliminary Study," Shaye Marie B. Lagman, UP Diliman; "Modernity and Health Care in Quirino Manila during the Japanese Occupation," Ariel E. Joven, University of Asia and the Pacific; "We Speak English, So What? Linguistic Ethnicities of Pagsanjan," Mga Pangalan Along Pasadena sa Metrolis (1895-1911)," Marlon S. Delgado, IUPI, "Language and the Metropolis: The Origins of Tagalog as the Basis of the National Language," Marie Tessa Tinsiliel E. Tiaco, PHD, and "Transcription of a Medieval Arabic Manila in Rolando Tinio's Lotus Weddings," Manuel R. Barrera Jr., College de San Juan de Letran.

For inquiries, contact MSA president Bernadette R. Churchill at (632) 426-6001 ext. 4075, or mbchurchill@hotmail.com, or conference convenor Lonely D.C. de Mesa at 0917-5442837 or mesalonely@yahoo.com or lonely.mesa@letran.edu.ph.

Book says Israel killed 5 scientists within Iran

THE LATEST faraway sensation in Tehran is a thriller about Iran's nuclear program that is laden with espionage, cunning and political murder that its readers are not former Iranian intelligence operatives or American military officials. They are not the Iranian equivalents of Tom Clancy.

The book, "Spies Against Armageddon: Inside Israel's Secret Wars," has set off a heat among both government and opposition news media inside Iran for the assertion by its authors—Reuel Mellman, widely regarded as a leading Israeli military and intelligence journalist, and Dan Raviv, a CBS national political correspondent—that five Iranian nuclear scientists killed in the past five years were all assassinated by operatives, most likely of Persian Jewish heritage, employed by Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied it is responsible for the assassinations.

Iranian news sources view the book, published Monday in English by Levant Books, a small company in Fox Chill, N.C., as an Israeli-written work exposing something the Israeli authorities do not want the world to know.

"Spies Against Armageddon" offers a broad overview of a widely reported Israeli campaign to sabotage Iran's nuclear program, which Israeli authorities suspect is a guise for developing nuclear weapons, an accusation the Iranian government strongly denies.

But the book's assertion that the scientists were all Mossad agents who used agency safe houses maintained inside Iran since the era of the shah is new.

Israel's state-financed Press TV favorably in a Persian-language article on the book's assertion that a Mossad unit known as Kidon—meaning Tip of the Spear in Hebrew and responsible for assassinations and kidnapping—dispatched operatives to Tehran to carry out the assassinations over the past five years.

The Press TV report focused on the agencies' nationality, pointing out that almost all the assassins employed by Kidon were either Iranian nationals or had dual citizenship. The implication was that they were citizens of Iran and Israel. Most people who hold such citizenship are of Iranian Jewish extraction.

A website whose Persian name translates to Soft War, which is dedicated to documenting all forms of "psychological operations and soft war" against Iran, rekindles the book's assertion as "the biggest joke of the century," specifically the claim that Mossad operatives are skilled enough to have sneaked inside Iran; placed sophisticated, magnetized bombs on the vehicles of four of the five scientists; managed to flood the home of a fifth with carbon monoxide; and escaped safely to Tel Aviv.

There are no plans to translate the book into Persian, but interest has spread across the political spectrum, as Iranian reformist newspapers have rushed to summarize and translate its contents. Political blogs on both the left and the right have written analyses and commentary.

The authors base their conclusions on reporting of public interviews, statements by Israeli leaders, leaked Iran Parliament cables, and off-the-record meetings between the authors and Israeli officials.

But they do not cite sources for their assertions about the assassins' nationalities or religious beliefs, which have garnered the greatest reaction in the Iranian press, or their statement that the assassinations were "Iran and white," meaning carried out by Israeli agents born and in Israel.

Rarely cited by the book's style as "symbiotic," assassins caused an Iran, militant sting interviews, quotations or even anonymous sources.

The question of the assassins' nationality has been of special interest to Iran, where a suspect in one of the attacks was hanged last month. Officials announced the arrest last month of a group of suspects, describing them as agents of what Iran calls the Iranian regime without identifying their nationalities. Though the book is unlikely to end speculation about who is responsible for the covert assassination campaign against Iran's nuclear scientists, its assertions correspond with a longstanding assumption among many security experts in Washington's policy circles.

New York Times News Service

WORLDBRIEFS

Hubble telescope spots fifth moon orbiting Pluto

WASHINGTON—US astronomers have found a fifth moon orbiting far away Pluto, NASA said on Wednesday. The irregular-shaped moon, nicknamed S/2012 for now, is about six to 15 miles (10 to 24 kilometers) across, the US space agency said. Last year, astronomers reported finding the fourth moon around the icy dwarf planet some three billion miles away. "The lessons learn a series of nearly nonstop orbits, a bit like Pluto's orbit," said Mark Showalter of the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California. Pluto's largest moon, Charon, is 648 miles across. The other two, Nix and Hydra, are between 20 and 75 miles in diameter, NASA said. Hubble—a potent space telescope that has transformed the field of astronomy since it was first launched in 1990—discovered Nix and Hydra in 2005. Astronomers at the US Navy's Observatory glimpsed Charon in 1978. Pluto, once known as the ninth planet from the Sun, was declassified as a full-fledged planet in August 2006 and joined the new category, dwarf planet. At about 1,430 miles wide, it is about two-thirds the size of the moon and has a mass less than one percent of the Earth's. AFP

Egypt president says he will obey court ruling on parliament

CAIRO—Egypt's President Mohamed Morsi will respect a court ruling overturning his decree for the dissolved Islamist-dominated parliament to convene, his office said on Wednesday amid a power struggle with the military. The statement appears aimed at mollifying an influential judiciary, which has been placed at the forefront of the complex struggle between powerful generals adjusting to their new Islamist president. "If yesterday's constitutional court ruling prevents parliament from fulfilling its responsibilities, we will respect that because we are a state of the law," the statement said, a day after the court ruled Morsi's decree. "There will be consultations with (political) forces and institutions and the supreme council for legal authorities to start a suitable way out of this." The statement added. Last week, Morsi restored parliament to convene in defiance of a military decision to dissolve the house in line with a court ruling last month, before the generals handed power to the president. AFP

China pays family in forced abortion case, father says

BEIJING—The woman who was forced to undergo a grisly late-term abortion in northern China, an action that prompted a broad public outcry over family-planning policy, will receive much settlement from the local government, her husband said Wednesday. The authorities have already fired two officials, sanctioned another five and issued a formal apology in the case, a measure of the impact of the furor channeled on the Internet. "We want to return to our home and move on with our life," said the man, Deng Jiyuan. "This was a tragedy, but life has to continue." He said the local government agreed to pay $11,200. Deng's wife, Feng Jianmei, was seven months pregnant when she was forced to undergo the abortion by chemical injection because the family could not afford the fine for having a second child. China limits ethnic Chinese families to one child, but the local authorities often allow a second if a fine is paid. New York Times News Service

Liberals sweep party seats in Benghazi, tally shows

TRIPOLI—Libya's liberals outfoxed Islamists to sweep all their seats in Benghazi, the country's second-largest city, according to preliminary results on Wednesday giving a new advantage to a liberal coalition contesting party seats. In the eastern city of Benghazi—cradle of the revolt that toppled Moamar Gadhafi last year—the liberal National Forces Alliance took 39 of 33 seats against 18, 143 for the Islamist Justice and Construction Party (JCP). Libyans on Saturday cast their votes for a General National Congress, a legislature assembly of 200 members, the first elected government after more than four decades of dictatorship under Gadhafi. The world is keen to see whether Libya, a conservative Muslim country with significant resources, will back the trend of the Arab Spring, which has brought Islamists to power in neighboring Tunisia and Egypt. AFP

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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Queco

Syria ambassador to Iraq jumps ship

BEIRUT—Syria's ambassador to Iraq defected on Wednesday in protest over President Bashar al-Assad's violent suppression of a 16-month uprising as the UN Security Council remained deadlocked over the next steps in the crisis.

"I declare that I have joined, from this moment, the ranks of the revolution of the Syrian people," Nawaf al-Fares said in a video statement posted on Facebook. He did not elaborate on why from where he had posted the statement.

"I ask ... the members of the military to join the revolution and to defend the country and the citizens. Turn your guns toward the criminals from the regime," Fares said.

"Every Syrian must have to join the revolution to remove this nightmare and this gang which has created corruption across Syria and destroyed the state and society over the last 40 years, and to guarantee a bright future for the coming generations."

Fares, who has close ties to Syrian security, was the first senior diplomat to quit the embattled government.

He did not spell out his reasons for defecting, but regrettably told government forces have been killing civilians.

There has been no comment from Damascus or Baghdad and the White House said it was unable to confirm the defection, hailed by Assad's opponents as a sign of crumbling support.

Assad's chief backer on the UN Security Council, Russia, reiterated firmly in the Syrian leader's camp. And the 15-member council made little headway after international mediator Kofi Annan asked it to agree on "clear consequences" if the government or opposition stalled or outright broke his faltering plan for a political solution to the crisis.

Fares, a Sunni Muslim and who had held senior positions under the late president Hafez al-Assad, is from Deir al-Zor, the eastern city on the road to Iraq which has been the scene of a ferocious military onslaught by Assad's forces.

"This is just the beginning of a series of defections on the diplomatic level. We are in touch with several ambassadors," said Mohammed Jawabra, a member of the main opposition umbrella group, the Syrian National Council.

FARES

"The defection of Fares could be a major blow to Assad, who wants to convince a troubled world he is conducting a legitimate defense of his country against foreign-backed armed groups bent on toppling the government.

Fares' decision to jump ship follows the high-profile flight from Syria last week of Brigadier General Manaf Tlass, also a Sunni and once a close friend of Assad, whose minority Alawite sect has relied on Sunni allies to maintain control of Syria's majority Sunni population.

Tlass fled to Paris and has not spoken since of his intentions. Opposition sources said earlier that Paris was leaving Iraq, but it was not clear where he would go.

"The apparent decision of yet another senior Syrian official to abandon Assad would be a shock to his senses," said one Western official speaking on condition of anonymity.

Yahyaagh Ambassador Fares is not a member of Assad's inner circle, but is respected Sunni figure and such a courageous act could help sway other Sunni officers to follow in his footsteps."

The apparent crack in Assad's diplomatic ranks came as international diplomacy lurched along, plagued by divisions over what the next steps should be to address Syria's crisis.

Annan, appointed mediator by the United Nations and the Arab League, briefed the Security Council by video-link from Geneva on the results of the week's diplomatic shuttle to Damascus, Tehran and Baghdad—three capitals forming a Shi'ite Muslim axis of power in the Middle East.

The deeply divided council must decide the future of a UN observer mission in Syria, known as UNSMIS, before July 20 when its 90-day mandate expires. It initially approved 300 unarmed military observers to monitor an April 12 ceasefire, which failed to take hold, in part of Annan's peace plan.

Reuters

SM CITY STA. MESA

DAVID COOK LIVE! IN MANILA

It's been 4 years since David Cook made that unforgettable rendition of Mariah Carey's hit "Always Be My Baby" at the Season 7 American Idol. It was that song that placed him on the map and propelled him to international recognition. After winning the coveted title of American Idol, David Cook went on to launch his first album "David Cook" with the carrier single "Light On." The single was certified platinum. He further made record with 11 songs debuting in the Billboard Hot 100. David Cook's ability to write straight from the heart endeared him to millions of fans worldwide. Being ardent music lovers, it's hard for Filipinos not to admire the rock singer, crooning his power ballads in his unique voice.

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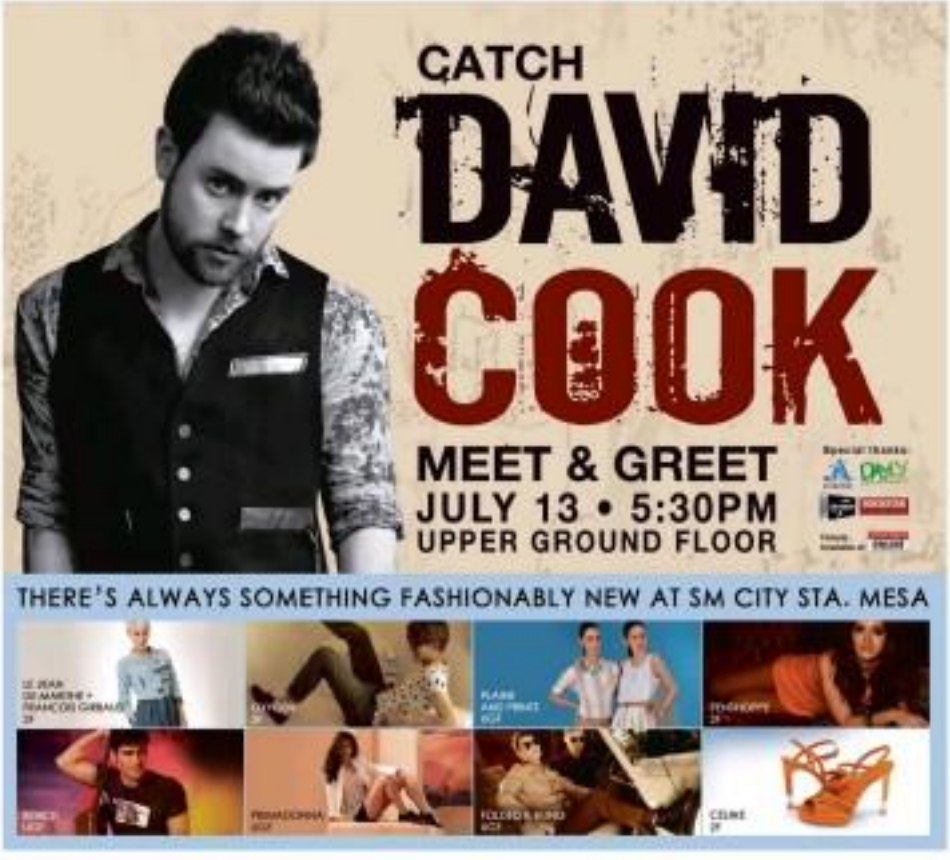

WHAT'S INSIDE

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SPORTS

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Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

■ Olivarez-Ilas keeps 2-shot lead /A31

B-MEG superstar James Yap (right) tumbles a pointless frame of Talk 'N' Text import Fred Harris in a recent game won by the Tigers. ARCHIVAL PHOTO

Llamados seek tie for 2nd title berth

By Marang R. Castillo

B-MEG shoots for at least a tie for the second championship berth today when the Llamados, winners of their first two semifinal games in the PBA Governors' Cup, look home with the cast of Arnell Morales Bobby at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The Llamados are the latest favorites to prevail in the 5:15 p.m. contest with the Bolts, who offered little resistance Wednesday night against store mate Talk 'N Text.

Talk 'N Text, meanwhile, draws for the second of four straight wins it needs to have a shot at a playoff berth when it tangles with fourth-ranked Air21 at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

The Boosters are virtually out of it after they threw a 19-point first-half lead to B-Meg before bowing by 11 Wednesday. Petron stays alive if B-Meg loses to Alaska on the first game.

Should the Llamados win, however, they would effectively seal the reign of the Boosters as champions here and narrow down the race for the second championship berth among B-Meg, Barangay Ginebra and Talk 'N Text.

The Elite Bolts were still slugging it out with tropical-land, but struggled in the third and have dropped their first three games by lopsided margins.

Talk 'N Text needs to win its remaining three games in order to stay alive, and would have to win another one after that streak to make the best-of-seven title series via the backdoor.

"There are no two ways about it," Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes said.

Suzuki Cup-bound PH Azkals in tough buildup

PHILIPPINE FA has a busy international slate

By Cedelf P. Tapus

DETERMINED to put up a credible showing in the AFF Suzuki Cup later this year, the Philippine Azkals are betting no stone unturned in their buildup for the prestigious tournament, even as manager Dan Palami stressed the importance of commitment from players to the national side.

The Azkals found themselves in what appears to be a tougher group that also includes three-time champion Thailand, 2008 winner Vietnam and the top team from the five-nation qualifiers in Indonesia or Singapore.

"If we want to win, we have to beat the strongest teams," said Palami, under whose guidance the Azkals achieved a historic semifinal appearance in the tournament two years ago.

"That's the only way to go about it. It is imperative that we prepare ourselves properly."

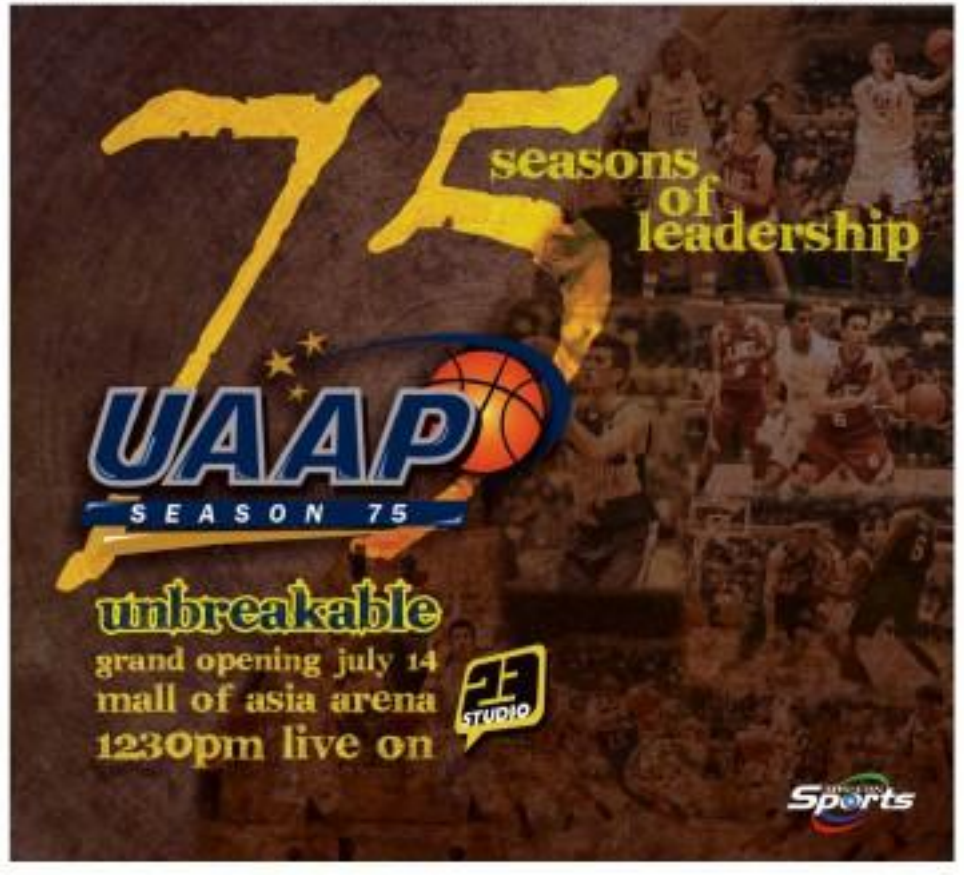
Former national coach Aris Caslib, the Philippine Football Federation technical director, said the draw will have little effect on the outcome of the Azkals campaign.

"It's all about preparation," said Caslib, who expressed confidence that the impact of the Azkals' victory against Vietnam in 2010 could give the Filipinos the edge in their group.

The Azkals are in for a tough grind before they plunge into action in the Nov. 21-Dec. 1 regional tournament in Bangkok with two training camps and at least 10 matches in the meantime awards.

Because of the national side's hectic schedule, Palami called on the Azkals to be more flexible with their schedule and to prioritize the national team.

"Playing for the national team is an honor,



Altas ambush Lions in OT

Pirates waylay hapless Cards

By Cedelf P. Tupas

PERPETUAL Help ended seven years of futility against defending champion San Beda in thrilling fashion last night as the Altas came away with an epic 88-87 overtime win in the 88th NCAA basketball tournament before a raucous crowd at the Filoil Flying V Arena.

In an endgame to remember, the Altas kept their poise in the extra period even after the Red Lions were galvanized by a buzzer-beating bangle of the court heave from Baser Amer to force overtime at 72-all.

There up for dead after Earl Thompson's free throw made it a three-point lead with nine ticks of a second left in regulation, Amer took one dribble and buried a rainbow of a shot from the three-point line on the other side of the court, sending the San Beda faithful into delirium.

But the Altas refused to succumb to overtime, rousing up with defensive gems in the last 30 seconds while cashing in on their chances for their first win over the Lions since August 2005.

The win also snapped San Beda's 12-game winning run that started after the loss to Jose Read Lhuer scorers.

"We wanted to snatch a big fish and this was it," Perpetual lady-coach Aric Del Rosario said, after the short-handed side survived by slim 1-point, 88-87, 3-1.

The Altas rallied from four points down in the last 35 seconds of overtime with Thompson, who was celebrating his 19th birthday, hitting two free throws and Harold Arboleda tying the game with a reverse layup.

A steal off an inbound pass led to a layup by Jon Idaat who swung the ball back to the Altas, 86-84. While Vidal missed the basket, Thompson sunk fouled, leading to two charities for 88-84.

Byron Bags drilled an uncontested triple at the buzzer.

Rolling on a wave of emotion, Upcourt dockett Magtas with an airtight defense down the stretch to pull off a 19-74 win earlier.

ANDREW Estrella of Mapua tries possession under pressure from Mapalo Edding of Lyceum in yesterday's game.

Suzuki Cup buildup up for Azkals

From page A27

and privileges," Palami said. "It should not be taken for granted. We expect the players to prioritize their duty to Rag and country. We will exhaust all efforts to fix scheduling conflicts. We also hope that all parties will be flexible with regards to fixing the schedule."

The two-week training camp in the United States will include a match against the Chicago Fullerton in Chicago on Aug. 11 and an international friendly against the US Virgin Islands in Indiana on Aug. 17.

The Azkals' next stop will be New Delhi, where they will join the four nations Nehru Cup against the host squad, Jordan, Syria and Kenya from Aug. 22 to Sept. 2.

Another training camp is being planned, possibly in Bahrain, where the Azkals also prepared in their build-up in last year's Pirelli Cup. Qualifying match against Kuwait.

The Azkals will see action in the Long Teng Cup in October in Bacolod City, although the DFF is still awaiting confirmation from Hong Kong to complete the four nations.

Palami said they could accept invitations to play international friendly matches against Indonesia and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Sports Commission and the PFF yesterday signed a Memorandum of Agreement that will pave the way for the construction of an artificial pitch as part of Phase 2 of the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

The agreement will be in 25 years and makes the facility exclusive for football-related activities. The PSC will also build four new locker rooms and two new shower rooms.

PSC chair Richie Garcia said the existing contract with De La Salle University, which agrees to fix the drainage and as well as the refurbishing of the field, will still be honored.

PFF president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta said the long-term plan is to increase the capacity of the stadium to 30,000 from 25,000. The deal will also call for a 60-40 revenue sharing in favor of the PFF with income earned from the sales and for the maintenance of the facility.

Olympic venues may be opened to future PH athletes

By Jane Makaren

THE TRAINING camp opened by the British government for athletes vying spoken in the London Olympics would also host future Filipino athletes.

A top British Embassy official yesterday said Filipino athletes would still train in the modern facilities built for the Olympics, scheduled July 27 to Aug. 12, under the supervision of top European coaches even after the Summer Games.

British charge d' affaires Trevor Lewis said the gates of the pregames camp, an unprecedented accommodation offered by the Olympic host country not be restricted if Philippine sports officials show eagerness to train their athletes in Britain.

Seven Filipino athletes are in the second week of training in the pregames camp, designed to build the confidence of Olympic participants and give them a glimpse of their possible opponents.

"There are existing relationships that can be built," Lewis told reporters during yesterday's launch of Solar Sports' 24/7 coverage of the Olympics.

"(The sports relationship) is interesting but it is most near-term the initiative of Filipino sports officials," he added.

Organized and subsidized by the London Olympic Committee of the Olympic Games, the camp was held for the first time in the history of the global event that will feature this time 2012 countries, 26 sports and 302 events.

Also present during the affair hosted by Solar Sports, the official broadcaster of the Games, were Solar TV president Wilson Tieng, Solar TV CEO Peter Cheesbrough and Colin Cota, corporate affairs head for British Embassy.

"London promises to be an exciting season," said Tieng of Solar Sports' second coverage of the Olympics after the 2008 Beijing Games. "It's not to be missed, events will be broken and Solar will be there."

Cheesbrough said they are aiming to draw Filipino athletes to action, although she avows they will only focus on them if they figure prominently to the competition.

"It's really dependent on their success," said Cheesbrough. "Filipino viewers, however, will have enough to keep them satisfied. There will be no shortage of Filipino viewers."

Solar Sports will air the Olympic competitions 24/7. BTV will televise the basketball games and TV5/Aksyon will show daily recaps of the events.

Dolphy, the basketball coach

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenta

BUKIT ALAM, Malaysia – I dropped by once a column about sports here in Malaysia as I am on the road again for an academic conference in this city 45 minutes away from Kuala Lumpur.

My wife Gigi teased me that Dolphy had passed away. I thought about his partner Ina Da whom we had worked with in the 1990s, when the local entertainment scene was alive with concerts every week. I thought about his actor-director son Eric who was chubby) we liked Dino Guevarra and Tony Ferrer in the TV movie on basketball. There was also Dino, the athletic Quiboy who played all the sports in the Sea Olympics.

After all the laughs he gave us, it was low low days I give this space to star Carmela Tiong who once acted as coach.

That's right, in the never finish race in with Facebook friends repeatedly saluting Dolphy, I thought about the time in the 1980s when every weekend Dolphy and a group of local and PBA players were guests in the Mr TV decent Rome along Ex-Elles. The PBA gang played as if to impress team and I was the game banker.

I had one scene with Dolphy when, according to him, he did his version of "Ibe Coke complaining about a call. The game was getting out of control and one player hurled the ball at him. He ducked and I got the full force of the rocket just and "saved" The I was out for the scene. The whole gag had Dolphy's hand written all over it as he orchestrated the scene with us quickly before the actual take.

I'm not very straightforward when asking for a photo of me and a celebrity to be taken but I do not hesitate to ask photographer Tony Lu, who does interview the whole show, to snap one with me and the comedy guru. I just had to have one with the man who made Tagalog translations of songs so outrageously funny, wearing from shorts a hat and single-handedly an Jose another challenge to face with a shuttle.

Pasay anniversary derby starts today

CHAMPION rodeos and breeders club today as the Pasay 26th Anniversary 6-Cock Derby fires off at the Pasay City Cockpit with Inquirer Cockpitter 3000 as sponsor.

Defending champion Jun Bautista of the National Cockers Alliance (NCA), who posted an impressive 6.0 win-loss record last year, leads the favorites today.

The other big guns are Adis Bobasaine and Al Tolentino, winners of the 2012 National Inquirer 9-Cock Derby cockfight "idol" Rep. Pantch Antonio, Gerry Ramos, Charlie "Nonoy" ang, Ronnie Abenoiamos, Tony Lucas, Bel Escandallo, Gov. Eddie Bong Plaza, Atty. Godfo, Ting Gonzalez-Ba, Arman Santos, Arnold delos Cruz and Rebel Rosas.

Also seeing action are 2011 LAC Invitational Derby champ LB Catedral in Orange-Isla City, Capt. Ernil Chan, Rep. Antonio Diagsaysay, Rep. Rudy Alfonso, Vice Gov. Celso Rosario, lawyer Harvey Cuefiqa, Carlos Templonuevo, Elmer Magsaysaysay, Ryden Ngo, Rony Pantaleon, Lito Roque and Bobbit Plaza.

The 9-cock Rizalo gets going on Monday.

Meanwhile, preparations are under way for the Pasay big Event 6-Ring Derby on Aug. 25.

Olivarez-Ilas keeps 2-shot lead

Dy also in contention for a Junior World golf title after two rounds

SAN DIEGO, California—Beatrice Olivarez-Ilas moved closer to her first major international victory after a roller-coaster round of even-par 36 that preserved her two-stroke lead in the girls' 9-10 years division going into the final round Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) of the Junior World golf championships here.

Acid test By turned in the day's best round of two-under-par 34 in the boys' 7-8 years to join a four-player logjam for second place, just four shots off Thai leader Vit Pitpot.

Olivarez-Ilas, daughter of former national team player Eva Olivarez, survived a rough back nine that included a double-bogey on the 10th hole of the Torrey Pines Executive course.

But she showed a big fighting heart by recovering from every mistake in the last eight holes, producing two birdies to nullify the same number of bogeys.

With a 130 aggregate and a two-shot lead over Ashley Shen of the United States, Mile Rosario finds herself in an almost familiar situation. She also went into the final round leading the 9-and-under battle three years ago.

She left Shen one stroke separating both, but her romp to hoping that won't happen this time.

Dy, seven shots off Pitpot after the first round, assembled a round that should make him the player to watch in a crowded battle at the Duke Health course.

He was the only player to break par and joined Sukanpat Mala (69), Casey Avrit of South Africa (69) and Aaron Gibson of Canada (69) in second place. They will be pursuing Pitpot (64) who opened up with a 59.

Olivarez-Ilas and Dy, who were born in the coastal state by Philippine Airlines as division champions in a national qualifying, have the best chance of making victory on the other members of the Philippine contingent carrying the colors of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines struggled.

Cold Cooper, tied for ninth at the start, came rumbling down with a 73 in the boys' 9-10 section for a 142 total. And so did Nicole Cervantes and Mia Legaspi, who shot 78 and 76, respectively, that virtually booted them out of the title fight.

Even the top Filipinos in the girls' 15-17 years fell further behind with Princess Superal now nine off the lead after a 75 for 140 and a share of 18th.

Raymund Oyanader Jr., who was part of the Philippine team when he won the boys' 8-under crown in 2004 and is now living in the United States, stayed just two shots off the pace in the boys' 15-17 years after a 73 for 142 at the Torrey Pines South course.

ADVANCE Olivarez-Ilas ready to assert her two-year's ambitions.

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Kitchen Queen Dish Organizer ₱1,195
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SPORTS

THE GODFATHER

Danding has big dreams for La Salle

EDUARDO "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. (middle) knows that greatness takes more time to build in the varsity scene than in the professional ranks.

By Jasmine W. Payo

HE LAUGHED at jokes that he could hardly relate to but Miguel Cojuangco, just to invest and spend some time with the La Salle University's basketball team.

Yet in one humid weekday afternoon, that seemed to be exactly what Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., one of the Philippines' top tycoons, did. He sat in a session of a twenty-schoolgirls, watching the Green Archers scrimmage.

"You have to be with them, stay somehow unique (there's a bond)," said Cojuangco.

Just recently, Cojuangco got a coo PET Lichtenberg after selling his 51 percent stake in San Miguel, others for economic chaos and cited excessive effort.

And in the days leading to Season 75 of the UAAP, Cojuangco may have been a sideline fixture as one of the godfathers of La Salle's basketball program.

But Cojuangco stressed that the job is certainly far from just flashing cash into the team—and he knows that from the experience of bankrolling pro league teams and past national basketball squads.

"You look at the health and welfare of your players, give them advice, you try to give them what's needed," said Cojuangco.

"I really enjoy the non-professionals because that is the instilling of the character of this young men. This will be the future [of the] PBA. He's watching, you're part of building them for the future."

Now 77, Cojuangco is rehearsing the reality ropes. Although he had backed La Salle in the past, Cojuangco's basketball team had been unlucky as his PBA squads before that have more success, visible in the pros where quick trades and selective drafts make instant champions, he realized need for a great deal of patience to the collegiate scene.

"It's a long-term build up, there's no such thing as an easy solution," he said. "You have to prepare for the players, you have to have a constant replacement. And it's not an easy job to do. You look for a player, continue him and the player even ready to your school, he takes an exam, Aang hirap makapasa, pasay sa Ateneo lil' they don't pass, we're dead. There are limitations. If we cannot satisfy the school academically sorry na lang. Kawi kasi yun eh."

Cojuangco's current expert the Green Archers to make a quick turnaround from last season's eventful ninth place finish even with new coach Gee Abanilla and standout recruit Aron Song.

"What we have promised the La Salle public is we'll try to do better than last year. We don't expect too much of us because, realistically, this is the same venue," said Cojuangco. "If we do a little better than last year, we'll be very happy. We should be very happy."

"I think it's a very realistic goal, it's not a modest goal," he added. "We don't entertain the illusions of being champions or being in the top four. Of course, we'll try our best, pero ito ngo sa sitting personality, sayosak sa lessons sa [sa CR's a long door]."

With Ateneo, the Ateneo University and the emerging National University dearly on top of their game this season, Cojuangco said the La Salle godfathers have resumed their sights on the future.

"We hope we can find our own best from the different schools of La Salle," said Cojuangco. "I think this year, we'll start hosting tryouts in all school campuses. I'm hoping we can find good enough players for us to have the team. But if you're really shooting for the No. 1 position, I think you should see from your self to just that. You should always recall yourself of the best available player."

The growing trend of aggressively recruiting not just local talents, but also foreigners and Filipino players with foreign roots, isn't lost on Cojuangco.

"The others are doing it, if we don't do it, (then we should) not have that, we believe at all," the former ambassador said. "Before, I got clobbered by the pros when I was handling the Philippine team. I was accused of favoring the local players and getting foreigners. The fact was, I was just utilizing what the rules permitted. I'm trying to maximize it to our benefit."

Cojuangco knows there's a lot of work to be done in bring the Green Archers back to their lofty basketball status.

"I'm giving myself at least four years," said Cojuangco. "If within four years I cannot get the championship for this school, then I think I better think twice. I think we should be able to be pretty good after four years. Otherwise, our did not do our job."

THEY BLEED GREEN: La Salle backers (from left) Terry Capistrano, Bro. Bernie Oca, Danding Cojuangco Jr. and Rally Villaluz-Arenas.

Voeckler rules Tour's 10th stage

WORLD SERIES: The International Little League Association of Manila will represent the Philippines in the Little League World Series next week. Said to Mapanique, Pampanga, this team—rated the 11th Little League Asia Pacific Regional Softball tournament after an 11-1 victory over Guam in the championship game. The team is supported by Pacific Online Systems, Connell Bros., Hijo Resources and Shakey's.

Battle of GMs race wide open sans So

ABA

Disabled athletes get Ironman slot

Lalanto, Ybanez top Century Tuna triathlon

DINNER OF CHAMPIONS: Ramon S. Ang, San Miguel Corp. (SMC) president and chief operating officer (center), hosts a dinner for the 2011 Asean Basketball League (ABL) champion, the Indonesia Warriors, and the San Miguel Beermen. Also present were Warriors team owners Erick Thohir, SMC commissioner-officials Robert Non and Ted Sies, and coaches Bobby Parks (San Miguel Beer) and Scott Purves (Indonesia).

Salud satisfied with PBA D-League

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

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■ Corporate bond issues in Q1 up 56% to P98B /B2-4

BIR finally exceeded collection target in June

But tax take in H1 lower than that of last year

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) collected P81.34 billion in June, finally exceeding its target after failing to do so for months.

According to BIR data released yesterday, the June collection was 7.8 percent, or P5.94 billion, higher than the P75.4-billion goal set for that month.

Also, last month's yield was 21.6 percent, or P14.4 billion, higher than the P67.9 billion collected in the same month last year.

With the collections in June, total tax revenue for the first semester reached P521.15 billion. This meant that the bureau missed its P535.36-billion target by 2.6 percent, or P14.2 billion.

Even then, the six-month collection was 13.8 percent, or P63.56 billion, higher than the P458 billion posted in the same period of 2011.

"Collections from the regional offices have consistently showed double digit growth as was the case in previous months," the BIR said in a statement, noting that the entry exceeded their year-ago yield for January-May by 6.8%.

The BIR said that in June, regional offices netted in a total of P20.09 billion, which was 25.6 percent, or P5.73 billion, more than that of a year ago.

This also meant that regional offices exceeded their collection goal set for

(BIR) B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
42.080

STOCK MARKET
30.25

Share prices dip further

LOCAL stocks yesterday slipped for a fifth straight session after South Korea announced a surprise takeover rule and while a weak jobs report from Australia added to the world's economic woes.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 30.25 points or 0.58 percent to close at 5,206.16.

Apart from concerns on global growth, many investors maintained gains after the market's surge to record levels last week.

(MARKET) B2

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Phoenix, BDO ink ₱500-M debt note deal

By Aris R. Barro

Pagcor marks record 2-year performance

By Dazmin L. Lucas

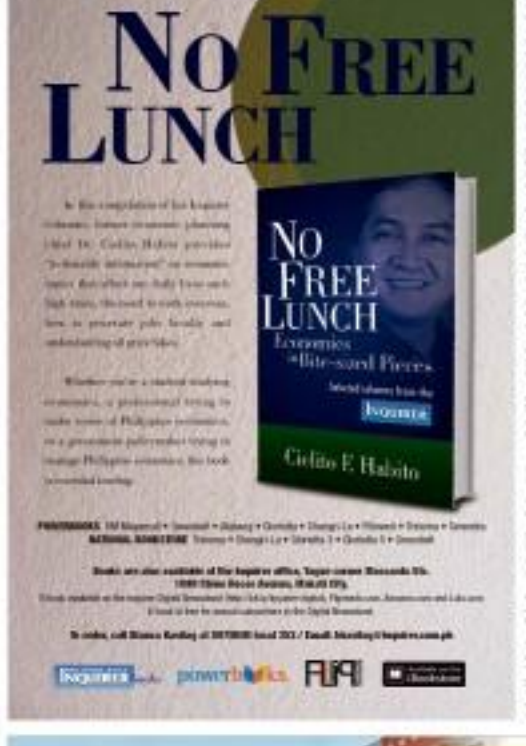
Revenue of gaming agency may top P40B in 2012, says top exec

In global gloom, PH emerges as 'bright spot'

By Michelle V. Rivera

$200-M investment shelved for now—BAT

By Rico T. Olchondra



Simpro Solutions of Canada putting up BPO facility in PH

QuE Accounting System
10,000
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By Paolo G. Montecillo

CANADIAN business process outsourcing (BPO) firm Simpro Solutions Inc. is setting up shop in the Philippines.

The country the Philippines the only Asia Pacific country in Simpro's operational network.

In a disclosure on Thursday, third local tech firm Pareo Inc. said it was chosen by Simpro as partner in the Philippines. Both firms have agreed to form a joint venture that they will own equally to be named Simpro Solutions Philippines.

"Pareo and Simpro will each have a 50-percent interest in the joint venture that will engage in BPO activities," Pareo's unaudited disclosure.

Simpro is based in Toronto, Canada. It focuses on contact centers and back-office operations.

"It has operations in Canada, India, and Mexico," Pareo said.

Earlier this year, the company said its information they need as quickly and efficiently as possible. This means creating a variety of customer self-serve tools including telephone, back office and online support that fit every customer's needs," he said.

The first phase of Simpro's Philippine expansion will initially have 400 seats and will be located in Eastwood, Quezon City.

"Our continued growth and focus on providing the best customer service to our customers across the globe made the decision to expand to new areas," Simpro group chair Andy Bruce said in a statement issued in March.

Simpro offers a variety of outsourced customer interaction solutions covering each stage of the customer lifecycle including recorded billing and back office processing, customer care, inbound sales and telemarketing campaigns, outbound telemarketing campaigns, and technical support.

Company's first shop in Asia Pacific

as new Philippine office would be one of its biggest offices in the world.

The contact center will accommodate up to 1,000 workstations, "allowing Simpro to continue to focus on providing enhanced service and business processes while ensuring that the operations are well equipped for continuing future growth," the company said.

"The investments we are making in contact center, back office infrastructure and services enable us to serve a broad spectrum of customer needs," Simpro president Tony Parks said.

"We're focused on finding ways to make sure our customers have access

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SM group says offer to Ortigas stays

THE GROUP of retail tycoon Henry Sy wasn't keen on buying into the property holding firm of Ortigas Group by a significant breakdown in Metro Rehab Inc. despite a rival offer from Ayala Land Inc.

"The offer stays. We're still awaiting the formal decision. But [several] seem satisfying formal ref," SM Prime Holdings Inc. president Hans Sy told reporters after the signing of a branding agreement with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. group on Thursday.

Sy said the SM group had offered to buy a 29-percent stake in OGIS' Hotel unit for, which was earlier offered for sale by British bank RBSC, the single biggest shareholder in the property holding firm.

SM Prime parent firm SM Investments Corp. negotiated to buy the stake held by RBSC and some less favorable deals ahead of ALI. However, terms of the Ortigas family have decided to buy out RBSC's stake for P11 billion and considered the family's control of the holding firm.

Last week, the group within the family led by Ignacio Ortigas formed a "strategic" alliance with ALI.

It has been reported that the Ortigas family was divided on whether to side with Sy's SM group or ALI in a strategic partner in the holding firm.

Sy said the SM group preferred to acquire a controlling stake but it would depend on whether the family would decide to offer the former RBSC stake to either SM or ALI. Sources, however, said the Sy group could offer was under a "look-up period."

Aside from RBSC, it was earlier reported that some family members were also selling out of the holding firm.

Ng-ek said have gotten a reply for us [since]," Sy said.

For its part, Ayala Land Inc. said it was reporting to conclude "directly" a partnership agreement with the Ortigas family.

Among the Ortigases' crown jewels are the Capitol Commons mixed-use project in Pasig and the Greenhills commercial complex. The family holding firm has a landbank of 88 hectares spanning Quezon City, Pasig, San Juan and Mandaluyong.

Another 48 hectares of prime

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Jun. 11, 2012 / Jun. 1, 2012
Bond Fund - Peso	0.00000 / 0.00000
Managed Fund - Peso	2.02750 / 2.00000
Growth Fund - Peso	2.02750 / 2.00000
Equity Fund - Peso	1.97910 / 1.90000
Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.00000 / 0.00000
Treasury Bond Fund 1	1.10824 / 1.10000
Balanced Bond Fund 2	1.10824 / 1.10000
Peninsula Fund - Peso	1.00000 / 1.00000
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.04100 / 1.04100
Asian Local Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.00000 / 0.00000

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

REQUEST FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE SPECIAL AUDIT OF HACIENDA LUISITA INC. AND CENTENNARY HOLDINGS, INC.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), complying with the dispositive portion of Supreme Court decisions dated July 5, 2011 and November 22, 2011 in G.R. No. 171101 entitled "**Hacienda Luisita Incorporated, Luisita Industrial Park Corporation and Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation vs. Presidential Agrarian Reform Council, Secretary of the Agrarian Reform, et.al.**" (Join www.sc.judiciary.gov.ph/chanrobles/pdf/2011/jul/g0171101.htm), invites Audit Firms to submit proposals for the provision of special audit of the financial records of Hacienda Luisita Inc. and Centennary Holdings, Inc.

The DAR now calls for the submission of proposals, including company profiles, for the provision of special audit of the financial records of Hacienda Luisita Inc. and Centennary Holdings, Inc. Interested firms must submit their proposals and company profile on or before July 31, 2012 at the Office of Assistant Secretary of Finance, Management and Administration at 2nd Floor, FAPsO Building, Department of Agrarian Reform, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Approved:

(Sgd.) **FELIX PERRY A. VILLANUEVA**
Assistant Secretary

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GT Capital investing ₱20B in 2 power plants in Visayas

By Doris C. Dumlao

XINUS listed GT Capital Holdings, through its power generation unit, will invest P20 billion in two new power plants in the Visayas with combined capacity of 164 megawatts.

GT Capital president Carmelo Bautista said agreements had been signed to put up two new power plants, one of which will be an expansion of the existing power generation facility in Toledo, Cebu. Another plant will be put up in Iloilo, he said in an interview after GT Capital's annual stockholders meeting on Wednesday.

The power plants will each have an installed capacity of 82MW and are estimated to cost P10 billion each, Bautista said. The plants will be on stream sometime next three years.

The power generation units of GT Capital, the holding firm of the family of tycoon George T. Ty, are under Global Business Power Corp.

Bautista said the agreements signed for the additional power projects in the Visayas were entered to "capitalize on projected (demand) growth in the Visayas and across the Philippines."

GBPC signed in May an engineering, procurement and construction contract with Korean Heavy Industries for the construction of the 82-MW coal-fired power plant in Toledo. It also signed recently an electric power purchase agreement with Cebu Energy Development Corp. for the off-taker of up to 70 percent of the new power plant's output.

Established in 2002, GBP is one of the largest independent power producers in the Visayas. It currently owns nine power plants in Visayas and Mindanao with an estimated dependable capacity of 627 MW. Of the group's total capacity, 483 MW counts revenues only in 2013.

Corporate takeover jitters

Rene J. Bidaliwan

BIG FINAL documents may have been signed, but from the looks of it, deals is overwhelming, beverage giant GMA Network Inc. is poised to come under the umbrella of the conglomerate headed by businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan.

According to reports, a unit of the Beneficial Trust Fund of PLDT is acquiring 80 percent of GMA's stockholdings for 6.146 billion or 90.5 percent of the Gozon's enhanced P72.15 billion).

The price could go higher if the rest of the stockholders would sell their shares pursuant to the tender offer that the unit is obliged to make as soon as the transaction is completed.

Under existing regulations, if more than 51 percent of the stock of a public company like GMA are acquired by a party, the latter is required to offer to buy the remaining stocks under the same terms and conditions as the original purchase.

The requirement is to protect the interests of the minority stockholders who before the tender offer into more improved, were left out in lucrative buyout transactions involving majority stockholders.

If the GMA deal hurdles all regulatory requirements, especially the prohibition on monopolies and combinations in restraint of trade, the merged resources of GMA and TV5 (a unit of Binghamton-controlled businesses) could give ABS-CBN a run for its money.

Reorganization

Although Pangilinan's group has remained fast, in spite of the common ownership, the two networks still operate independently. While staff may have concerns to worry about the security of their employment or the benefits they presently enjoy.

Obviously, in terms of capitalization, facilities and market reach, TV5 lags behind GMA. That "editorial," however, is compensated by the fact that TV5 is an organic part of the acquiring company.

It is common practice in mergers and acquisitions involving companies that compete for the same target market to keep their operations apart for the first two or three years as they can figure out their respective strengths and weaknesses.

After completing the getting-to-know-you phase, either of two things usually happens: the acquired company is reduced to the level of a division of the acquiring company or is absorbed with the latter emerging as the sole surviving entity.

In any of these developments, existing divisions are shut down, redundant employees laid off and supervisors or managers reassigned to new posts with working papers.

Often, bosses of the subordinate units in the corporate hierarchy, the staff of the acquired company find themselves in the doorway of the reorganization.

Separation

The usual approach is that management takes which it wants to downsize (the politically correct term is for "separating employees") it is to offer "golden parachutes" or separation packages that provide generous financial and post-employment benefits.

There may consist of, say, 200 percent of the employee's annual salary multiplied by his years of service, plus medical and hospitalization privileges for a fixed period of time.

If the affected employee has worked for at least 10 years and is 50 years old or the time of the termination of his employment, these benefits are exceptionally increased.

To ensure that he/she/it, however, it is essential that the termination is against his will or without his consent or, where applicable, in accordance with a retirement program approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Failure to meet these conditions would expose the offer to employees to serious trouble with the BIR.

Since no exemptions are strictly interpreted against the claiming party, appeals for exemptions or special considerations for 'old age or sickness' would be insufficient to discount the BIR from charging its pound of flesh.

Precaution

An employee in their 50s or, if above that age bracket, possess marketable talents or skills, the golden parachute is a must for him/herself.

It presents an opportunity to explore new employment prospects that offer better compensation, with a financial cushion to boot, courtesy of the former employer.

But not for employees who are nearing retirement age or no longer have the qualifications that can attract prospective employers in the IT driven age.

Unless they're the equivalent of a king's ransom, the separation or retirement benefits may not be enough to support them comfortably for the remaining years of their lives. More so if they have dependents who are still of school age or require financial assistance.

Not all separation schemes, even if lucrative, succeed in convincing the object of management's downsizing program into accepting them.

If he sees management cannot persuade employees who no longer meet its productivity standards to give up their employment, ruthless "thumbs down" techniques are sometimes resorted to.

These include reduction of work responsibilities, making supervisors report to somebody younger in age, transfer to backwater posts, withdrawal of privileges or other acts meant to send the message to the targeted employees that he is no longer considered a valuable member of the organization.

Employees who cannot afford to leave their job for personal or family considerations have no choice but wait for eventual the pressures brought up on them to quit.

Although employees cannot be forced into resigning or refusing the re-entry on the ground is that it is an unfair labor practice, employers can always find ways to make life miserable for employees who refuse to take separation or retirement schemes. The labor Code has practically given employers a blank check on the matter.

Worse, the shot in the labor courts are loaded against employees or labor.

(For feedback, please write to rand_alfred@inquirer.com.ph.)

Philippine Stock Exchange

Puregold hikes public float

Retailer sold ₱6.5 billion worth of secondary shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

RETAILER Puregold Price Club Inc. sold ₱6.5 billion worth of secondary shares to non-overnight equity fund that bought back its ownership to 52 percent, the same as the level before it took over convenience chain operator Mini-S.

Puregold's controlling shareholder, the family of Lucio Co, sold 250 million common shares at ₱26 per share in an overnight private placement deal announced by UBS.

"The transaction results in an increased public free float from 23 percent to 32 percent, in line with the public float price to the acquisition of Mercado Management Corp., which owns the Mini-S chain," the company said in a disclosure.

UBS Investment Bank acted as sole global coordinator and bookrunner for the transaction. The investment placement took five hours and was over 2.3 times oversubscribed with more than 70 investors participating. UBS Philippines managing director Lissa Guevara said.

The transaction was launched with a base offer of 220 million shares at a price range of ₱26 to ₱27 per share. Due to strong investor interest from global institutional investors, the transaction was upsized to 250 million shares.

"The Puregold private placement was an excellent opportunity for investors to participate in a pure Philippine consumer play," said First Asset Management Co. president Gus Lotilla.

Since the block was priced at a discount to the ₱28.40 closing price of Puregold on Wednesday, the company's share price dropped by 4.9% percent to finish at ₱27 per share on Thursday.

Puregold earlier acquired 100 percent of Mercado for ₱16.6 billion through a share-swap transaction with the Co family, which was also the controlling shareholder of Mercado. In exchange for the shares in Mercado, Puregold paid the Cos 766.4 million of its common shares, a portion of which was unloaded Thursday night via the private placement deal.

In the meantime, the consolidation gives Puregold-Mercado a combined chain of about a fifth of the retail trade industry. It now ranks second biggest next to the SM group.

Puregold has a current market share of 14 percent while that of SM is 3.3 percent.

Manila-based Mercado operates shop shopping business, has a membership base of 2.5 million, mainly from the A-B market segment. Puregold caters to the A-B-C market.

SM was set up in 2000 to partnership with Price Smart of the United States. It was acquired by the Co family in 2006 and now has 66 stores.

Mining firm completes capital restructuring

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. said Wednesday it had completed its equity restructuring.

As such, the listed miner said it was set to issue shares to Mitsubishi Materials Corp. (MMC), which opted to get a stake in Atlas under a loan conversion arrangement.

The restructuring also enables Atlas to set aside funds for stockholders' dividends, the firm said.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Atlas said the Securities and Exchange Commission had approved the increase in its authorized capital stock from ₱10 billion to ₱60 billion, the subsequent decrease in the par value of its shares of stock from ₱0.5 per share to ₱0 per share, and the full conversion of its unissued debt of ₱12.7 billion through the application of its additional paid-in capital.

"As previously reported, the conversion will result in the issuance of 273,098,360 Atlas shares of stock to SM Investments Corp. as a subscriber," Atlas said.

Also, after the increase, the outstanding capital stock of Atlas will consist of 2,072,809,788 shares. No other movement in the outstanding capital stock of Atlas will ensue from the equity restructuring, the miner said.

Atlas also advised that the change in the par value of its shares would not yet be reflected on the PSE's trading system pending submission by the corporation of the procedures on updating its stock certificates, in accordance with the bourse's policy on updating of stock certificates. The exchange will inform the public of developments, Atlas said. — Elan J. Gabreza

PH posts net 'hot' money outflow

By Michelle V. Bocos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported a net outflow of foreign portfolio investments or "hot" money in June, or the prolonged debt woes in the Eurozone led to global risk aversion.

Investments declined as uncertainties about the euro zone affected global markets and forced heavy sell-offs," the BSP said in a statement.

Data from the BSP showed that gross inflows for the month reached $1.125 billion, while outflows amounted to $1.223 billion. This resulted in net outflow of $97.09 million.

Monetary officials said the outflow of foreign portfolio investments during the month reflected the volatility of the investment placements in equities, who were responding to reports about the banking sector woes in Europe. In general, the adverse impact of the sovereign debt problems in the region's economies.

Despite the net outflow in June, however, the central bank said a net inflow was recorded for the first half of the year as investor sentiment for emerging markets was still favorable vis-à-vis that for advanced economies.

Monetary officials said "yield-seeking investors would go for emerging market assets, given the poor growth prospects in advanced economies.

The net inflows of foreign portfolio investments to the Philippines reached $675 million at the time remainder of the year. This was down by 64 percent from $1.39 billion in the same period last year.

The flow of portfolio funds is expected to register a significant improvement in July following the recent credit ratings upgrade the country got from Standard &Poor's.

S&P citing the country's improving fiscal consolidation and strong dollar reserves, raised the Philippines' credit rating from two notches below investment grade to one notch below.

Following the announcement of the upgrade on July 4, investments in peso-denominated stocks rose, enabling the Philippine Stock Exchange index to hit a new high and the peso to strengthen to a two-year high of 41.66:$1 on July 5.

Monetary officials said foreign capital flows were expected to reverse starting this month given favorable growth projections for the Philippines.

The Philippine economy grew by 6.4 percent in the first quarter from a year ago, faster than the 4.9 percent recorded in the same period last year.

The BSP said the Philippines had the ability to maintain this growth pace throughout the year, given strong domestic demand and the liquidity in the banking system.

PATRICIO Amadero

At 73, he remains hands-on in his banana plantation

By Vanessa Gutierrez
Contributor

SOME four decades ago, Patricio Amadero drove a jeepney for a living in his hometown in Iloilo City. While he feels it was an "honest and noble job," as experience he herself is proud of, his hand-to-mouth way of life was difficult for his family.

"Maybe there is more to this," he remembers telling himself.

Armed with guts, big dreams and faith, he set out down south to the sleepy town of General Santos (formerly Dadiangas) in Mindanao to carve a different life for plans a different future.

The 40-something uphill took one thirty and hungry but the right one something to behold.

Rows of pineapples neatly planted, clusters of mango trees and corn line the dirt road. Herd of sheep graze on verdant grass together with calves as lands worthy by.

Upon meeting higher ground, cool, gentle breeze swoops the land. This is where Amadero goes to every day to manage his business, Pluda Resources Inc.

At 73, Manong Pat—as he is fondly called by workers of his vast banana plantation—still personally oversees his business.

"He is very handsome," says his general manager Elmer Robles. Going up the mountain regularly to inspect production, he goes from one stakeholder meeting to another and makes sure everything—from harvest, processing and packing of the banana—is used with high quality control. "He has a very good memory and tends to remember the minor details," Robles shares.

Couple this with Amadero's uncanny ability to turn everything into opportunities, it is no wonder Pluda Resources, and a slew of its other businesses, continue to thrive despite the ever changing economic terrain.

Driver to entrepreneur

His decision to leave his hometown was based on a multifaceted reasoning—not that he worked there. At the time, Coca-Cola was opening a plant in Bukidnon and for entrepreneurial mind-set kicked in.

He thought: "If a big company was confident of setting up a firm in this town, that must be a good sign of economic boom in the area."

With a meager P35, Amadero set up business making school bags and selling them in the public market. "Mahirap ang pumasok ng bago" (Hard to enter a new field), he narrates. Business was brisk and sales picking rapid, he ventured into several more enterprises—going into agro- and agri-culture as well as in the hotel, furniture and retail (hardware) business.

Having recently bought land in the suburb of General Santos City, he first thought of planting Arabica trees, its hand wood would provide raw materials for his furniture business.

Although admittedly profitable, the trees took years to mature and the outlaying area of El Nido—the highest the country—took a toll on the business. But to be shaken, Amadero thought of planting "early crops"—fast maturing plants that will bear fruits within a year—in his land.

Although the hilly terrain doesn't guarantee profit, he took the chance and planted bananas. After all, he thought, "bananas planted on higher ground yield sweeter fruits."

The steep slopes and uneven plateaus of the mountain proved to be tricky—he needed a variety with a sturdy trunk, one that could hold the weight of its fruits. The Lakatan and Señorita, the local varieties cultivated in spots, proved to be the best choice. The first few harvests were sold mostly in the public markets of Isetan, Cotabato, Bello and Manila. Although sales without a background in business growing, Amadero reasons, "Good seed really bore me." as business continues to flourish and doesn't finally.

At about the same time, port communications in business was a big reason, especially for exporters.

DOLE, the world's largest producer and marketer of high-quality fresh fruits, exported upon Amadero's purchase and took interest, asked for several samples of the fruit and after passing the stringent set of qualifications made them their sole supplier of Lakatan and Señorita varieties for export to Japan.

"The export to Japan," he recalls, "increased with the popularity of the banana diet."

With a thriving business, he continued to purchase additional land, and moved more in capital. "We opted to bank with Planterabank," he shares.

When other banks turned their doors for loans, Planterabank was ready to help. "They're easy to talk to," he says.

Manong Pat, the visionary

When he started Pluda Resources, he tapped the indigenous people to be his workers. "Here in the mountain, there are no employment opportunities," he laments.

"They cannot write, and they can only speak in Binisa," says Amadero, thus greatly limiting their chances of decent work.

But knowing the hilly terrain like the back of their hands, the indigenous people know how to grow and best take care of the banana plant and its fruits. "They are my greatest asset," he says.

Not only does the company provide jobs to some 600 workers and women, it has transformed Sitio Bongao, a once humdrum countryside setting to a thriving community with roads well built and schools from elementary to high school. "I tried to give the people here in the mountains a good chance in life," he smiles.

With job opportunities and a sound educational system in place for the children of his workforce, "I can move than a season," he shares with the checkle.

Up the rugged mountain terrain, thousands of hectares are peppered with the banana plant. With hardwork, faith, stroke of good luck and determination, Manong Pat has brought Pluda Resources Inc. to higher grounds.

More than achieving success in business though, he has planted the seeds of hope for the people who work for him; he is more than a business owner, he is a visionary.

Coffee from Cordillera in demand

By Chit Juan
Contributor

CALL THEM heirloom varieties just like "old world" wine.

Coffee in the Benguet, Mountain Province and Ifugao are some of the best Arabica coffee strains.

Many coffee enthusiasts have savored this nectar in the Cordillera and most of the coffee are "spoken for" even before harvest starts around November of every year.

The coffee stakeholders have been conducting meetings and seminars to address the lack of supply of Arabica from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Many farmers have gone into variety establishment and seedling production to address the lack of certified seeds and the existence of "seedlings" as planting materials.

Lone Judy Tandi of Benguet Heritage Society in La Trinidad, Benguet province says the site of a coffee farm where stakeholders from all price level and age engaged the continued propagation of Arabica coffee as well as Robusta coffee from Kalinga and other home elevations of the mountain range.

The DTI-CAR has also initiated coffee roasting and cupping seminars to allow farmers to add value to their produce. The first pilot seminar was conducted by the Philippine Coffee Board Inc. (PCBI) director Manny Tesoyan

and Chit Juan in Tabuk City, Kalinga last June 20-22.

"We can increase a farmer's income if she can "test process" the coffee and roast it properly, says Chit Juan, PCBI president.

Chit already buys from women cooperatives for supply to global companies who seek coffee from women and mostly women-led cooperatives as well.

In February the PCBI and DTI plan to organize a coffee trail tour from Kalinga to Ifugao, upwards to Bontoc and finishing in Benguet.

This will be during the harvest season where the "Pick Red" campaign of the Coffee Board is done. Farmers are taught to pick only red ripe cherries and to process them to a "wet process" fashion, adding value and quality to the coffee.

"These coffees will fetch a higher price in the specialty coffee segment," says Tesoyan.

The Philippines considers a net importer of coffee due to increasing demand which today stands at 65,000 MT.

Production has sustained low in total due to continuous industrialization in urban rural areas; developments even as more farmers are planted to coffee to meet needs in Visayas and Mindanao.

Today, there are only about 70,000 farmers engaged in coffee. The PCBI and DTI hope to increase the farmer population through continuous training and specialty coffee seminars such as those done with the Philippine Coffee Board.

In Kalinga, Sweden and Joan met women coffee farmers who have increased their income from P5,000 to P20,000 a year and another woman, who had increased her income by roasting Civet coffee, allowing her to earn higher and acquire more land for 4 coffee farm expansion.

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'Advertise a low price, yes; but advertise a high price, what for?'

Q: WE'RE a department store in an emerging urban center north of Metro Manila.

While SM and Ayala had set up in our commercial district since five or six years ago, we've held on to our share of shoppers and overall sales of our branded items still show no signs of falling.

We think it's because of our policy of seeing that advertised brands that tenants carry are sold at prices lower than those in other stores and even lower-end SM.

We did this by some special arrangements in the contract with any particular tenant.

Most of our tenant stores carry both price brands as well as premium brands. Price brands always advertise their low price and when on sale, the store advertising is about the lower prices.

Premium brands also advertise their prices but only when they go on sale and deadpan on lower prices.

Recently, several of the customers and boutique stores for sports shoes, bags and apparel informed us that they want to advertise their high premium prices. After a meeting with our marketing director, this was our e-mail response. "To advertise the low price of a price brand, yes. To advertise the lowered price of a premium brand on sale, yes. But to advertise a high price of a premium brand, no!... as we're not in this department store."

The premium brands requested for a reconsideration. Other department stores in SM and Ayala, they claimed, have already approved.

We'd like to remember but not because other department stores have given their go signal. We've loyal readers of your Marketing Rx column and we're wondering if you can tell us the marketing logic, if any, of advertising a premium brand's high price.

A: We understand your situation, for the one hand, you have the need to protect your department store image of low price but guaranteed and authentic quality.

On the other hand, you also have the need to respond to reasonable demands from the segment of your tenant stores representing premium brands.

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto
& Andy Roberto

And they seemed to have presented their case not harshly but in business like professional fashion.

The issue you have to resolve in your mind as well as with your tenants has to do with your first need.

Is it true that your advertising or converting to the premium brands of sports shoes, bags and apparel to advertise their premium pricing would hurt your department store's low price image?

If you had to the room or your tenants past a precedent case that did not at all damage your department store image, then you can readily give your consent.

But we want to understand that you have an iota reasoning precedent. That's what we inferred from your response to the tenants asking for your go signal for the plan of their premium brands to advertise their high prices.

As let's proceed to your other alternative. That's in search for "the marketing logic, if any, of advertising a premium brand's high price." If you direct your search on the literature dealing with consumer behavior with respect to pricing, you'll find the marketing logic.

Note that we're talking about consumer behavior advertised and not pricing references. In we'd like you to think consumer and consumer behavior.

Of course, the most well-known consumer behavior is about consumer response to low prices or decrease in price.

Lower prices or price reductions always trigger the price sensitive consumers to stretch and buy.

This buying response can come from three sources. First is the decision of existing brand buyers to move forward buy, that is, to buy now what they are planning of buying later, say, next month or so. Secondly, other existing consumers who already have bought may decide to still buy some more "for inventory." They can't resist the bargain and so buy for storage for later use. Thirdly and for many brands, the lower or reduced price is intended to entice consumers of a competitor brand to switch brand even for just trial purposes.

The expectation that usually happens is that some or many of those who found switch would stay and therefore enlarge the lowered price brand's consumer base.

Is there an analogous consumer behavior for hanging on a premium brand's high price? In the case, there is no lowering of the premium brand's pricing as in a sale. It's just advertising unless generally that this premium brand is available at the high price!

Let's go back to the advertising of a lower or reduced pricing. The underlying idea or what you call marketing logic here is to take advantage and to reinforce the consumers' price sensitivity or what economists call "price elasticity" of the price conscious market segment. If you now think of the obverse of a market segment's price sensitivity or elasticity you have the premium market segment's price insensitivity or inelasticity. In other words, advertising a premium brand's high price is meant to reinforce the premium consumer of his pride about paying the premium brand's known high quality way above pricing.

You know there are consumers like that. You yourself may have had the occasion to count yourself in that segment. We recall several occasions when we got a genuine Lacoste shirt or an Armani tie/orange shirt as a gift and the giver "insistently" forgot to remove the price tag. The giver was obviously price insensitive, inelastic and took much more pride in the high priced Lacoste or Armani brand.

Advertising a premium brand's high price has that kind of legitimate "marketing logic." And this is what you are looking for. We hope you'll think about this and accept its appropriate role in price advertising.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@ybb.ph or Marketingrx@gmail.com. God bless!

FINANCE ASIA MAGAZINE CITES MEGAWORLD

Megaworld Corp. (the country's No. 1 developer of office and residential condominiums, mixed-use developments in the past) Finance Asia Awards. Best Managed Company. Best in Investor Relations and Best Mid-Cap. Megaworld senior vice president Francis Canlas (second from right) and Investor Relations director Kristina Garcia received the citations from Joerning Investrill Maybank ATR Kim Eng Securities chair & president Lorenzo Rosas. Magnum ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners president & CEO Manuel Tantiansu and chair Ramon Arnaiz.

Benguet Nickel Mines backs National Greening Program

BENGUET Nickel Mines Inc. (BNMI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Benguet Corp. (Benguet Corp), will participate in a tree planting activity in Sta. Cruz, Zambales as part of the National Greening Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The tree planting activity spearheaded by the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) and BNMI, will gather 600 participants on July 13 to plant at least 40,000 tree seedlings in Barangay Coloong, Sta. Cruz, Zambales. The initiative is part of the comprehensive greening plan of Zambales, which aims to reforest 10,000 hectares that were denuded by rampant conversion or illegal logging activities in the area.

Aside from officials and employees of PNP-SAF and BNMI, the tree planting activity will be participated in by representatives from the local Mayors and Governors Bureau and the DENR-CENRO Region 3, board members of the Municipality of Sta. Cruz, and officials of the Sangguniang Bayan of Barangay Coloong, together with a number of residents.

BNMI's support for the tree planting activity affirms its commitment to share Executive Order No. 26, or the National Greening Program, which encourages companies to coordinate with local government units to realize the goal of planting 1.5 billion trees throughout 1.5 million hectares by year 2016. The initiative hopes to mitigate the negative effects of deforestation and environmental degradation, especially the devastating frequency and intensity of typhoon brought about by climate change.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has supplied BNMI to plant 40,000 tree seedlings per hectare in 100 hectares, a total of 30,000 seedlings, within a three-year period starting 2013. To date, BNMI has planted a total of some 70,250 seedlings.

With 40,000 tree seedlings to be planted on July 13, and another 30,000 seedlings on Aug. 12 in celebration of Senggunlang's 100th anniversary, BNMI will be able to bring its total number of seedlings planted to nearly 100,000 by the end of 2013, exceeding the three-year MGB target by 98 percent.

BNMI aims to show that despite ongoing discussions regarding various mining issues in the Philippines, it remains committed to its advocacy of responsible mining by coordinating with the government and other stakeholders for primary participatory and integrated biodiversity enhancement, and proper land resource management, on top of providing its host communities with sustainable livelihood development and management programs.

TV commercial dramatizes Etihad's feat as world's leading international airline

ABU DHABI-BASED international airline Etihad Airways now provides visual drama and dramatic flavor to what used to be a rogue customer understanding of what it takes to be the world's leading airline.

Etihad has just launched a campaign for the purpose, viz., unfolding a television commercial (TVC) and simple streaming video footages for public viewing, both are now posted on its website (Etihad.com/why).

The Why Etihad campaign highlights the flag carrier's industry and market leadership by showing the unique features that have made it earn the title "the world's leading airline."

The campaign is buttressed by the statement that "more people have switched to flying Etihad than to any other global airline in history."

Putting substance to that statement are performance figures culled from the airline's eight years of operation since its inception flight in 2003.

The figures are to 40,319,167 guest journeys, 7,203,122 cups of hot chocolates and 8,068,694 of cappuccino and latte served 162,341 chefs who have experienced the Six Senses Spa treatments, 2,000 hours of quality programs and Wi-Fi Internet Class lounges at Abu Dhabi and London, 249,694 meals that are now grilled to order by onboard chefs for the Destined First Class, 7,052,936 rewards redeemed by customers, 3,699,958 "thirsty" door-to-door trips provided by its private chauffeur-service, and 4,249,546 who have enjoyed a restful sleep in the fully flat beds of its Pearl Business Class.

The featured having and fully-flat bed is available to every business class guest flying long haul, each bed guarantees aisle access and more than six feet of room in which to stretch out.

These and many other attractions are highlighted in the Why Etihad campaign whose global TVC stirs curiosity among consumers and yields among its patrons.

The TVC, filmed at beach locations on the Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi, shows young people seeing a low flying Etihad plane suddenly leaving high and dry, one-way and tugging a banner that reads: "In its first 8 years, more people have switched to Etihad than to any other airline in history."

Then, to their amazement, another Etihad aircraft of similar size passes by also carrying a banner which reads: "Why?"

PHOTO above is forward facing and fully-flat bed available to every business class guest. Lower photo is the toilet.

The filming of the TVC, according to photographer Director Jon Rafael Fitts, required the use of the aircraft for a couple of hours for the shoot.

"The idea behind the TVC is to tell an amazing fact about Etihad... And as demonstrated by the numbers here (flying to 63,616,600 (Airbus) km over the Saadiyat Island) driving a massive banner giving the key message to our customer audience," says Etihad vice president for marketing Andrew Price.

The low-altitude flight and all other related operations in the filming of the TVC were approved by the General Civil Aviation Authority.

Aside from low-to-close-in flights around and over spectacular sceneries, Etihad Airways also offers special promotional rates for its coral economy class.

Etihad's inflight amenities by this class include three meal choices, full-style but heavy-quilted beds/mattresses, specially designed "cradle recline" seat bottom, over 600 hours of on-demand entertainment on a personal 10.9-inch touch screen LCD TV with noise-cancelling headsets, and industry-leading loyalty program with transferable rewards.

Based in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, Etihad has a fleet of 66 aircraft and serving an international network of 86 passenger and cargo destinations in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and North America.

SIX months after typhoon "Sendong" brought untold destruction to the province of Cagayan de Oro, Bgao and Negros Oriental, conglomerate San Miguel Corp. has turned over 897 newly constructed houses to families displaced by massive flooding in CDO and Bgao. The houses form part of SMC's P500-million donation for the construction of 1,000 homes for flood victims in all three provinces—said to be the largest corporate social responsibility (CSR) undertaking in the country.

BDO partners with real estate developers for Home Deals

In collaboration effort between BDO Retail Loan and six top accredited developers, Home Deals brings together the luxury objects in the city's real estate industry – Century Properties, DMCI Homes, Megaworld, Rockwell Land, SMDC and Vista Land Group.

"Your wishes in the Philippines are interdependent as evidenced by the multitude of residential and high-rise condominium complex development across the nation in recent years," said Elmo Manuel, BDO Senior Vice President and Consumer Lending Group Home Loan Business Head. "The Home Deals program offers flexible terms and affordable monthly installments that allow home buyers to acquire properties from reputable real estate developers."

The BDO Home Deals special financing packages offer:

- Low interest rate and options for fixed period
- Flexible loan terms of up to 30 years

Plus additional perks* if availed within the promo period, both are:

- Free home insurance for the house mortgaged (not the one buying)
- Free Estimated Property Processing Fee
- Promotion P50,000 worth of Gift Certificates offered by Megaworld to first buyers

This offer is open to all interested buyers of the featured properties offered by six partner developers whose loan applications are received from June 15 until August 15, 2012 and subsequently approved and availed of not later than November 30, 2012.

Fully committed to providing easy access to home financing as well as affordable loan products that suit the needs of the market, BDO has various financing and loaning schemes which clients can choose from and apply for a loan.

Both Home Loan is offered to over 100 BDO branches nationwide through six major partner developers, and accredited real estate brokers and sales agents. Six dedicated Account Officers are also available to answer questions and explain loaning options from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- BDO Consumer Lending Group Business Center (Ground Floor BDO Corporate Center) 7899 Makati Avenue, Makati City.
- BDO Home Offices at the following addresses:
  - GA Pryce Bldg., 378 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
  - ABT Corporate Condominium, 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center

Interested Home Loan clients can also get in touch with us through the BDO website at www.bdo.com.ph or call the BDO Customer Contact Center at (02) 878-8888 or Home Loan Direct at (02) 845-7100.

Just visit us today. We can customize home financing packages to give you the loan you want at terms you can afford.

*Terms and conditions apply.

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> "Hyundai Central EDSA finds ways to delight every customer by bringing a unique mobility experience with modern premium automobiles."

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At Hyundai Central EDSA you can find people who understand your true passion and your heart's desire. Coming from an established background in marketing luxury vehicles, Hyundai Central EDSA is the brainchild of CATS Kuwait Cars, Inc. With the leadership of its chairman, Mr. Felix Ang, and its president, Mr. Wilfredo Pe, Jr., Hyundai Central EDSA is the newest member of the Hyundai Dealer Network.

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Mining EO gets wary welcome from businessmen

RFM evaluating buyout offers for Swift unit

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

A NUMBER of local food companies have expressed interest in either buy out or acquire an interest in Swift, a heritage brand in the processed and canned meat sector, mostly found and favored by local and foreign firm RFM Corp.

That RFM has received unsolicited proposals was confirmed by RFM CEO Jose Gonzalez III yesterday, who said that the company was open to considering "win-win opportunities" to further grow the Swift brand.

The sale or joint venture "will definitely be positive for RFM," Concepcion told the Inquirer. "What is important if we go [to] joint venture is that the potential partner will be able to add value."

"Swift has been around for more than 70 years so it has been able to build a loyal following," said Gonzalez.

Swift mainly produces hotdogs, bacon, ham, corned beef, luncheon meat, tapa and other such trademarks as Swift Mighty Meaty and Sweet and Juicy. These are distributed through key accounts, major supermarkets and groceries nationwide and produced out of a newly refurbished plant in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Swift is one of the leading brands under the wing of RFM. Others include market leading Selecta ice cream, Fiesta pasta, Selecta Milk, White King flour and Sunkist juices.

As of end-May this year, RFM's income totalled P249.99 million, 40 percent more than what was recorded in the same period the previous year, and came out of P4.32-billion in total sales in the first five months.

Concepcion said during the company's annual stockholders' meeting that the company's income growth was due to better margins from its production processes following the easing of commodity prices, especially milk and sugar.

He said all brands had shown growth from 2011, led by Selecta, the ice cream joint venture with Unilever, White King Fiesta pasta, Selecta milk and Sunkist juice.

"We are aimed to participate by the spectacular consumer acceptance of our newly launched Magnum ice cream which has become a craze among the sosyal market," Concepcion said earlier.

RFM reported that, aside from Selecta ice cream and Fiesta pasta, sales of Selecta milk, Sunkist juice drinks and Swift Corned Beef and Bacon Strips in sachets also posted double-digit growth rates.

The growth was attributed to efforts to make operations more efficient as well introduction of new packaging, aggressive merchandising and advertising.

Quick passage of new revenue sharing legislation urged

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE JOINT Foreign Chambers expressed concern about the uncertainty that may arise from certain sections of Executive Order 79 on mining reforms, including provisions that government would not enter into new mining agreements until new legislation on revenue sharing gets passed.

In a statement, JFC highlighted Section 4 of the EO, which states that, while the government will continue to grant and renew exploration permits, it will "discourage" such agreements from the granting of mineral agreements, which will not be entered into until a law rationalizing revenues sharing takes effect.

Such a downgrading, the JFC said, is an investment disincentive.

"The EO asserts that those with exploration permits will have the first option to develop, should an economic deposit be discovered. The JFC is of the view that no mining company can be expected to spend extremely large amounts of money on exploration without certainty the grant of a mining title and without first knowing the fiscal regime," the group said.

On the provision requiring consistency of local ordinances with national laws, JFC said that to attract and deliver certainty of investment into the Philippines, the government should prioritize the resolution of this long-running issue.

"The JFC awaits clearer advice from the government as to how it plans to implement this very important test of investor confidence," the group said.

The JFC also noted that government's intention to bid out new or newly cleared mining areas with "known and verified minerals resources and reserves" is "relatively restricted" in other regimes around the world.

JFC said it is concerned that this process is "open to self-serving manipulation."

The group then suggested that the Philippine government consult with stakeholders as to how it implements its plan to clear certain areas to mining applications in situations that are not genuinely high-value areas of significance to conservation, tourism, agriculture or aquaculture.

The JFC also welcomed several areas within the 22-point EO of particular interest, including the enforcement of environmental standards; formation of a Mining Industry Coordinating Council; streamlined permitting process or a one-stop shop for all mining-related applications and processes within six months from the effectivity of E.O. 79; the commitment to provide the timely release and even an increase in the share of national wealth from mining to the local government units; and tackling illegal mining, establishment of mineral reservations.

Relatedly, while acknowledging the government's desire to improve its revenue share from mining production, the JFC welcomed the Philippine government's recent invitation to the International Monetary Fund is to analyze fiscal conditions and make recommendations on the fiscal regime for mining in the country.

PPP proponents told to ready dispute resolution modes

By Ana G. Roa

ALL contracts involving projects with the private sector are now required to include provisions or use alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center said.

Executive Order 78 signed by President Aquino last July 4 mandates all implementing agencies from both local government governments to include ADR provisions in the contracts of projects under the PPP program, build-operate-transfer projects and joint-venture agreements.

The new EO seeks to provide a friendlier environment for the private investors, the PPP Center explained in a statement.

"There is a need to provide a more inviting climate for private investments by making the resolution of disputes arising out of a contract less expensive, tedious, complex and time-consuming, especially for large-scale, capital intensive infrastructure and development contracts," the EO stated.

When the parties agree to submit a case for ADR, they will be given a choice whether to use domestic or international ADR mechanisms, according to the EO.

This will give the parties the "freedom to choose which arrow and forum shall govern their dispute, as well as the rules or procedures to be followed in resolving the same," the EO said.

The National Economic and Development Authority, in coordination with other government agencies, was directed to issue the implementing rules and regulations of the EO.

The EO also instructed the Department of Justice through the Office of the Alternative Dispute Resolution, and the Secretariat of the PPP Center, to conduct an information campaign on the new policy.

Previous laws have encouraged the use of ADR mechanisms, which include conciliation and negotiation, and mediation and arbitration, to achieve a speedy and efficient resolution of disputes.

The use of ADR mechanisms has been promoted under Republic Act No. 876 known as the Arbitration Law and Republic Act No. 9285 or the ADR Act of 2004.

The Supreme Court also issued the Special Rules of Court on ADRs in 2009, which encouraged the use of ADR particularly arbitration and mediation as an effective mechanism to dispute

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Franchise issue may delay MVP takeover of GMA7

Deal now seen to be sealed by next year

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) group's widely-expected takeover of television station GMA Network Inc. may be delayed to next year due to the need to seek congressional approval for the deal, executive Manuel V. Pangilinan said.

Nevertheless, Pangilinan, who chairs PLDT, said preparations are ongoing to wipe out to pay for the majority stake in GMA, if and when both camps agree on a price.

"We're already talking to our banks," Pangilinan said on Thursday.

But he added that the company would only mostly on cash to pay for a majority stake in GMA's franchise will limit a small portion of the transaction, he said.

He explained that the PLDT group and the Duterte, Gotesc, and Jimenez families that control GMA, would both seek to have an agreement before the year ends.

Whether PLDT can take over the company is [illegible] however, was still unsure.

"That deadline is beyond our control because we still need to get approval from both houses of Congress and the NTC (National Telecommunications Commission)," Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan said PLDT's affiliate, MediaQuest Holdings, would most likely acquire 100% common shares, while PLDT would pick up Philippine Depository Receipts, a form of equity reserved for foreigners.

Under the Constitution, foreigners are not allowed to have voting shares in media companies.

PLDT is controlled by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. and Japan's NTT DoCoMo. But MediaQuest is owned by PLDT's Beneficial Trust Fund, which would allow the group to skirt restrictions on foreigners.

MediaQuest Holdings controls other key media assets, most notably, cable channel Broadcasting Corp., operator of GMA's rival television network TV5.

Koreans eye local minerals, buy into chromite project

By Rica T. Dizhonder

A KOREAN consortium is initially investing P59 million into a chromite production and processing project on Homonhon Island, Eastern Samar, that the group believes would be "the biggest in Asia."

A group comprising state-owned Korea Resources Corporation (Kores), Korea Infrastructure Investments Asset Management Co. Ltd. (KIIR Eastern) and KAP Partners Investments Co. Ltd. is investing the amount to get exclusive rights to the Philippines-based Cambayan Mining Corp. and to boost production in the Homonhon chromite project, said Anthony Kang, natural and commodity development specialist of KAP Partners Investments.

The partners signed on Thursday a head of agreement on the venture.

Kang said after the signing ceremony that with the initial investment of P59 million, Cambayan will work with the Korean group to boost production to 3,000 tons and will expand the chromite concentrate to China.

Eventually, Kang said, the goal is to raise production to 30,000 to 40,000 tons a month, but that this depends on certain conditions, including Cambayan' getting permits for increased production.

The long-term plan, Kang said, is to put up a value-added processing plant in the Philippines.

Kores needs minerals and the consortium hopes to get supply from the Philippines, he said.

Local residents of Homonhon will be prioritized in hiring personnel for the project, Kang added.

Cambayan's Homonhon chromite project is located in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The project site encompasses 3,536 hectares but the present operations only takes up 100 hectares.

AF2025: Quo Vadis?

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

IS AGRICULTURE and Fisheries 2025 (AF 2025) just a political gimmick to show the farmers and fisherfolk that the government really cares for them? Or

Is it a sincere commitment to finally put into practice reforms in the right track in achieving true agricultural development?

Background

On February 10-11 last year, 200 stakeholders assembled in Antipolo for the a presidential-setting session. It was the first time the executive (led by Agriculture Sec. Proceso Alcala), the legislative (led by Congress Agriculture Committee chairs Sen. Francis Pangilinan and Rep. Mark Mendoza) and the private sector (led by chairs from farmers' associations like the Alyansa Agrikultura and agribusiness presidents from organizations like the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food) met to plan out new things.

The first was to formulate a vision for agriculture in 2025. The second was to identify policies, programs and projects that could help achieve this 2025 vision in the short, medium and long term. There was a sense of achievement, almost euphoria, at the end of this millionaire conference.

Status

Is that enthusiasm still there? For some sectors, yes. But for the majority of the sectors, it has been transformed into grumbling optimism or downright disappointment.

Can the excitement be rescued? Yes. This depends on what will happen in the AF 2025 top level meeting that will take place this Thursday, July 17.

On that day, the elected presidents/chairmen of six sectors identified during last year's AF 2025 conference, its partners and with their six Department of Agriculture (DA) counterparts, will make presentations in a small top-level meeting with AF 2025 conveners Sec. Alcala, Sen. Pangilinan and Rep. Mendoza. The emphasis will be 2013 action.

We cannot achieve the 2025 agricultural vision if the required 2012 action is not done. Each sector will propose the two most important action items and what must be missing in the 2013 DA budget proposal. If these recommendations fall on deaf ears, the potential that AF 2025 showed in its inaugural February 2011 conference will not be realized, and therefore wasted.

The uniqueness and power of the presentations given by the six private sector members is that they are the joint products of both the private sector coordinator and his or her DA counterpart. Thus, there will be public-private participation (PPP) presentations. They will jointly ask for what the government has not provided yet. This is where Sec. Alcala, Sen. Pangilinan and Rep. Mendoza will play the decisive role.

Six sectors

The six sectors of the AF 2025 have been working nonstop since their formation last February 2011. They are identified here with their corresponding elected private sector leaders: (1) Rice—former Senator and Technology Mindanao Head Jerver; (2) Poultry, Livestock and Commercial Feeds... Urban Builders Bakers Association chair Gregorio San Diego with Elias Jose Bulaong as alternate; (3) Fisheries—Alliance Mangingisda ko-convenor Arsenio Timbreza; (4) Commercial Crops—University of Asia and the Pacific Agribusiness Center head Rolando Ey; (5) Fruits and Vegetables—Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Agriculture vice president Robert Aquino; and (6) Cross-Cutting Issues—former Agriculture Sec. Ernie Rascal; with former Economists Planning Sec. Cielito Habito as advisor.

Since the start of this year, there have been 28 AF 2025 sector meetings, or an average of 4 meetings a month. But without the direct involvement of AF 2025 conveners Sec. Alcala, Sen. Pangilinan and Rep. Mendoza, the six private sector leaders believe that urgently needed action has been delayed. Without the conveners' direct participation, the good work of the past now marks the risk of being wasted. Through the AF 2025 process also, a report to the National Agriculture Fisheries Council, this has been found to be insufficient.

Conclusion

If inadequate action is taken on the AF 2025 recommendations in next Tuesday's top-level meeting, what will this say about following Aquino's PPP theme, and his statement "Kung walang kurap"?

My fearless forecast is that the three AF 2025 convenors will act decisively on the joint proposals to their government recommendations. Otherwise, the AF 2025 potential will be perceived as just a political gimmick and its huge potential squandered/wasted ... sayang!

(The author is chair of Agrimanila, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail [illegible] or fax 8920112.)

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Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bid
Procurement of Laguindingan Airport Air Navigation System and Support Facilities Supply Project
EDCF Loan No. PHL-13

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) through the Department of Finance has received a loan from the Export-Import Bank of Korea (the "Bank") from the resources of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Republic of Korea denominated in Korean Won, equivalent to USD13,293M towards the cost of the Laguindingan Airport Air Navigation System and Support Facilities located at Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental, under Loan Agreement No. PHL-13 dated 13 of October 2011 and intends to apply major portion of this loan to payments under single contract package. GOP will fund the local currency cost of the Project in the amount of USD2,612 M.

1. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), as the Project Executing Agency now invites prospective Korean bidders to submit sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the following major components:

1.0 Air Navigation System
- 1.1 Instrument Landing System (ILS/ LLS)
- 1.2 Doppler VOR/DME (DVOR)
- 1.3 ATC Communication System
- 1.4 Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS)

2.0 Electrical Works – Air Navigation System (ANS) and Aeronautical Ground Lighting System (AGLS) (except purchase of work interfacing with civil works)
- 1.1 Underground Conduit (Construction of Concrete Duct Banks and Manholes including Supply & Installation of Conduits and Grounding Wire)
- 1.2 Cables

3.0 Aeronautical Ground Lighting and Control System

4.0 Substation (High Voltage and Low Voltage Electrical Equipment

4.1 High Voltage Electrical Equipment
- Automatic Synchronizing Panel

4.2 Low Voltage Electrical Equipment
- 1250 kW Diesel Engine Generator Set

5.0 Flight Test Commissioning (ILS/DME, DVOR/DME, ATC Communication System and Aeronautical Ground Lighting System)

6.0 General Requirements

2. The Estimated Cost of the Contract reflects two cost components, **USD 11,268,762.24** as the ceiling for the foreign cost component to be provided by EDCF and **PHP 101,334,282.31** as the ceiling for the local cost component to be covered by GOP through DOTC. The Contract amount from the EDCF loan proceeds (foreign cost component) and the Contract amount from the GOP counterpart (local cost component) for each component enumerated under item 1 above will be determined and agreed upon by the Purchaser and the Supplier.

3. The Contract Duration is **12 months.**

4. Bidding will be conducted through Competitive Bidding procedures among Korean Firms, adopting a two-envelope system as method of bidding and is open to all eligible bidders that meet the following minimum qualification criteria:

Item No.	Qualification Criteria	Minimum Requirement (CDR)
(1)	Contractual Experience (1 similar contract each for the installation of the following component undertaken by completed as main contractor within the last 10 years:	
	(a) Air Navigation System	
	• ILS/DME	USD 9,299
	• DVOR/DME	USD 6,156
	• ATC Communication System	USD 8,159
	(b) Aeronautical Ground Lighting and Control System	USD 4,600
(2)	Technical Experience	
	No. of years that the AWOS AGL component being offered has been in satisfactory operation from the date of first acceptance	
	• ILS/DME	Not less than 1 year
	• DVOR/DME	2 years
	• ATC Communication System	Not less than 1 year
	• AWOS	3 years
	• AGNAS Lighting System	3 years
(3)	Average Annual Turnover for the last 3 years	USD 22,500M
(4)	Financial Capacity for the last 3 years (net asset less total liabilities)	Positive
(5)	Cash Flow Capacity (average of Credit line Commitment	USD 1.00M

Note: In addition to the above requirement, the **Lead Partner shall meet net item (item 3)%** of the qualifying criteria given under items 1 (Average Annual Turnover) and 4 (Cash Flow Capacity above).

5. Interested prospective Korean Bidders may obtain further information from:

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
Thru BAC Secretariat
Department of Transportation and Communications
Unit 1106, 11th Floor, The Columbia Towers
Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. No.: (02)684-7720
Email Address: dotclbaac@yahoo.com

and inspect the bidding documents at the said address from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting on 15 July 2012.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any Bidder upon the submission of a letter of intent (written application to the address given above) within ten (10) days from the date of advertisement and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PHP60,000.00** in the form of cash or manager's check payable to DOTC at DOTC Cashier's Office, 6th Floor, the Columbia Towers, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address given under item 6 above on or before 10:00 a.m. on 27 August 2012.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of **Bank Guarantee** in the amount of at least **USD 221,809.29**. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 a.m. on 27 August 2012 at the DOTC Conference Room, 16th Floor, The Columbia Towers, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong, Philippines.

9. The DOTC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

10. The DOTC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award or not to award the Contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Chairman
Bids and Award Committee

BUSINESS

Corporate bond issues in Q1 up 56% to ₱98B

By Michelle V Rosca

CORPORATE bond issuances rose in the first quarter from a year ago, as more businesses raised money to fund investments and other expenditure requirements.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that bonds issued by corporations in the first quarter totalled ₱98 billion, up by 56 percent from ₱62.8 billion in the same period last year.

"Corporate issuers continued to tap other sources of financing," the BSP said in a report to the Monetary Board during its last policy-setting meeting.

According to the BSP ecosystem have become less reliant on bank loans for their funding needs, as liquidity in the bond market is sufficient to meet their demand.

The BSP said that while bank lending remained a significant source of financing, the bond market was also to provide an alternative source of liquidity for borrowers in the country.

Funds raised from the sale of equity shares through the Philippine Stock Exchange, however, declined in the first quarter.

Analysts said global economic uncertainties fanned risk aversion among investors, particularly fixed-income securities like corporate bonds.

Capital raised through the Philippine Stock Exchange in the first quarter hit ₱10.2 billion, down by 45 percent from ₱18.4 billion a year ago.

In the Tiers quarter, the economy maintained its status of gross domestic product, grew by 6.4 percent from a year ago. This was faster than the 4.9 percent recorded in the same period last year. It was also the second fastest growth rate in Asia for the period next to China's 8.1 percent.

The country's economic managers claimed that the economy's resilience boosted optimism in the business community despite unfavorable developments offshore.

The BSP earlier reported that business confidence index in the first quarter improved to +43.0 percent from +30.7 percent in the fourth quarter of last year.

A positive index means respondents who are optimistic about the economy and profitability of their businesses outnumber those who are pessimistic about the same.

NGCP expands 2 substations in Luzon

By Arra B. Reyes

NATIONAL Grid Corp. of the Philippines is expanding the capacities of two substations in Luzon to ensure the sufficient, stable and reliable delivery of electricity in the area.

According to the NGCP the Luzon substation expansion I project of the Dan Sicat (DNS) Substation in San Rafael, Bulacan and the installation of a new 300-megavolt ampere transformer unit at the Cabanatuan Substation in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija formed part of the transmission operator's P14.3-billion capital expenditure program for this year.

The Luzon substation expansion I project, which was completed on June 15, included the upgrading of the existing 230-/69-kV load capacity of the DNS substation and its associated equipment.

It also involved the installation of additional transformers to accommodate load growth and ensure the so-called N-1 contingency at various substations in North and Central Luzon.

The N-1 contingency referred to the ability of the main grid to withstand the loss of a major system component to prevent, or place, with only a minimal disruption to the grid.

The substation, according to NGCP was selected since power distributor Manila Electric Co. uses this facility for a portion of its electricity load.

At the meantime, the installation of a new transformer at the Cabanatuan substation will help avert the overloading of transformers, where local distribution utilities, power generation companies and other industrial customers in Nueva Ecija and Aurora are connected.

According to the NGCP, this project is expected to be completed and will be energized by the end of this month.

NGCP is a privately-owned corporation in charge of operating, maintaining, and developing the country's power grid. It transmits high-voltage electricity through "power superhighways" that include the interconnected systems of transmission lines and towers, substations and related assets.

DOTC tapping Korean firms for airport project

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications is wooing big South Korean firms to take part in the project that will improve the air navigation system at the Legazpi/Daraga Airport in Misamis Oriental.

In a statement, Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas said the government was looking for companies that could supply the air navigation and weather equipment needed to complement the Legazpi/Daraga airport's state-of-the-art facilities.

The equipment supply deal will cost P12.29 billion or about P300.9 million. The entire Legazpi/Daraga airport project is funded by a concessional loan from the Export-Import Bank of Korea, which means only South Korean firms will be allowed to participate.

"Among those needed for the airport upgrade are the instrument landing system, a Doppler radar, a communication system, an automated weather observation system, electrical facilities for the airport complex and associated ground lighting system," the DOTC said.

Once installed, the Legazpi/Daraga airport will be better equipped than Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Roxas said the airport terminal in Legazpi was already 90 percent finished. The structure was built by a consortium composed of South Korea-based firms Yooshin Engineering Corp., the Sebena Kiewall Inc. and the Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co. Ltd.

"Once opened, he said economic activity in this region would soar to new heights as the airport is envisioned to be a major multiplier of trading," Roxas said.

"The will be a major trading and tourist hub," he said. "It represents a multiplier effect in the region, and this would create more jobs for the people."

The Legazpi/Daraga airport is designed to be the main airport of Caguayan de Oro and Iligan cities in northern Mindanao, a counterpart of the Davao International Airport in southern Mindanao.

PREP 2012: A cause for celebration for PH real estate

PHILIPPINE Real Estate Festival (PREP) celebrates its sixth year in providing the ultimate venue for property development and networking. PREP 2012 marks this year's event with the theme, "Philippine Real Estate: Opportunities for Foreign and Local Investors," highlighting the various media that Filipinos and foreigners alike can participate in the growing property sector. The three-day event will be held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City on July 26 to 28.

Vice President Arsenio Rivera, PCEC Chair, has been invited to formally open the festival as guest speaker. Together with Gov. Rongbong Marcos, Ilocos Norte governor, Tourism Sec. Ramon Jimenez and lawyer Mike Varela of PCCI are expected to present why the Philippines is a haven for real estate investments for both foreign and local investors among other relevant matters affecting the real estate industry in India.

Invited to assist in the ribbon-cutting are Charlie Gotesco, CREBA president; Paul Taruc, SIOA president; Marina del Mar, MBA president; Jefferson Bengzon, CHRISP president; and Abdulgani Hiwassan, Turkish Chamber of Commerce executive vice president.

Rose Ilose, PREP president and CEO, said that unlike the previous events over the past years, PREP 2012 will hold a different symposium over the three-day program catering to specific groups.

The conference is expected to draw an extensive number of investor groups, sectors, and individuals due to this feature. The program will feature the avenues for property investments in daily plenary sessions relevant to the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, various foreign chambers, the Metro Manila Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the various OFWs.

PREP 2012 will feature an interesting and highly comprehensive exhibit of the widest array of real estate developers in the Philippines. Participated by the leading real estate developers and related suppliers, the event promises active and positive business-matching and networking activities under one roof.

The event is open to the public and its entrance fee will be charged. A design showcase and exhibitor awards will also be held to recognize the achievements of young designers, architects, and booth participants.

The highly-anticipated event in the real estate industry is indeed a cause for celebration. For interested sponsors, exhibitors, attendees, and for general inquiries, contact PREP Events Management at 894-0224 or 819-3958, or via e-mail at prep_marketing@yahoo.com.

Rock-solid confidence

A touch of hotel glam at home

STORY ON PAGE 3

A masterpiece of Ortigas

VIRIDIAN in greenhills

LUCK HAS FOUND A NEW ADDRESS. VIRIDIAN IS RISING AT THE BELLY OF THE DRAGON!

Be one of the few to own this sought-after address. Viridian, located right at the belly of the Dragon, gives you the unique opportunity to have a home within the prestigious location of Greenhills. This 24-storey luxury condominium offers non-stop facilities with Greenhills Shopping Center right at your doorstep. It also offers you the best views of Rizal Park Golf and Country Club, Ortigas skyline and Sierra Madre mountains.

Viridian in Greenhills is a prudent and effective investment, providing a value that appreciates in time.

Construction in full swing!
CALL US NOW at 451-1538.
Visit our showroom at G/F Commercial Retail, Greenhills Shopping Center, or log on to www.ortigas.ph for more information.

Amenities deck

Ortigas Launches its New Luxury Residential Condominium in Greenhills

Prominent property developer Ortigas & Company has launched the first vertical project of a new residential project in Greenhills dubbed Viridian.

Viridian in Greenhills is a 24-storey tower to be built at the Northwest border of Greenhills Shopping Center (Connecticut cor. Missouri Streets) and will be completed in 2016. It will have 24 condominium units of studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom units, two retail floors, one amenities floor, and five levels of basement parking. It is the first premium residential tower to rise in Greenhills Shopping Center.

According to Fely Diaz, Viridian is located at the "belly of the Dragon" or what the Chinese consider a site for prosperity. It promises to give residents unsurpassed views of the Sierra Madre mountain range, the Rizal Park golf course, and the Ortigas skyline.

The tower will have swimming pools and cabanas, sky gardens, a function room, a fitness center, as well as secure and convenient basement parking. It

Redevelopment plan

Viridian's porte cochere

said's first class can range from 30 square meters (studio unit) to 207 square meters (3-bedroom unit). Each unit will have an open concept living, dining, and entertaining area, spacious yet lounge serving high-ceiling built-in bedroom closets, cabinetry, and expansive glass that brings natural light.

"We designed Viridian to command residential address in San Juan. It is welcoming, luxurious, and homey. They say 'seeing is believing.' We invite you to see the real future residential address that will be home to the elite with its world-class amenities and great service," says Jose Sevilla, General Manager of the Residential Division, Ortigas & Co.

Price starts with P8M up to P30M, inclusive of a parking space for every unit.

Greenhills redevelopment plan

Sevilla further stated that Viridian is part of the Greenhills Shopping Center's P20 billion redevelopment plan, which includes making it a center of choice for work and play environment.

"At its core, the redevelopment plan calls for bringing back the 'community gathering place' feel that has always been associated with Greenhills and how this experience will be one conducive for those like that prefer to watch the future of business and call Viridian home," adds Sevilla.

Additionally, the plan calls for doubling the shopping space that will amplify the "Dragon" shopping belt area, while allowing for a wide array of workspaces (office and flexible) to pick. The enhancement will be supported by improvements in the entertainment corridor, which will include additional dining options as well as three state-of-the-art cinemas that will showcase the latest in digital technology.

Ortigas & Company is the developer of Ortigas Center, Eastwood City, Cyberpark, Bonifacio Global City, Mandaluyong City, Pasig City, Quezon City, Makati City, Manila, Pasay City, Cebu City, Davao City, Tacloban City, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Cagayan de Oro City, Zamboanga City, and Greenhills.

Viridian - Building

For more information, visit the website at www.viridian.ph or call 451-1538.

Real-Estate Special

Rock-solid confidence

A touch of hotel glam at home

Let creativity—not cash—do the magic

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

CHEAP bedding and comfy pillows

DON'T lighting and neutral colors

HAVE you ever walked into a posh hotel room, gazed at its stylish decoration, and silently wished your home would look as luxurious?

If only condominium unit owners have unlimited resources to fulfill each of their wishes and whims for their interiors. Architectural Digest would have a field day. But, sometimes, we have to go back to reality.

Fortunately today, living in a more [illegible] requires considerably rather than cash. After all, you can all have the money in the world to design the most beautiful condominium, but no amount of money can buy taste.

Manila Hotel Manila opened the doors of its famed Presidential Suite to inquirer so readers could get a glimpse of how it is to truly live in the regal luxury.

Investing in quality bed linen and cozy pillows could be one of the best decisions you'll ever make for your home. Posh linens, after all, is almost always associated with luxuriance. While it may be too much to suggest you change your bed sheets every day (just as they do in hotels), it couldn't hurt to stick to white sheets, with a bed runner adding a touch of color in the in the room's overall look. Adding a stylish bed beach should add to the room's comfy ambience, too.

2. Wall accents and conversation pieces

An innovative way to tick up the glam a corner in your condominium unit is to have your accents and conversation pieces built in the wall. Not only does this save space in the process, but this design is also less prone to someone banging into those precious pieces.

3. Soft lighting and neutral colors

Throw out the bulbs that emit harsh lighting. Instead, consider switching to bulbs that emit warm white, similar to what is found in the Star Hotel Manila's Presidential Suite. The warm white glow should complement nicely the neutral or earthly color scheme of your home.

4. Mixed elements

Adding a mental divider to create relatively compartmentalize different parts of your condominium unit adds extra privacy without making the room seem smaller. What makes it a more attractive option, rather than putting up an actual wall, is that it allows you to see through the other side of the room and have the air ventilating more effectively. More importantly, solves the time comes that you decide to redecorate, the wall divider is much easier to move or remove altogether.

5. Use plants versus fake ones

A touch of real plants, not the synthetic ones, can add green color to any part of the condominium unit, more so inside the bathroom. There are plants that are perfect for indoors as they can survive for a long time without getting to water and with minimum sunlight. Don't you just hate fake plants that only gather dust in a corner of your room?

Live the upbeat lifestyle at Jazz Residences

EVENING area

ARCHITECT'S rendition

A LARGE portion of the 2.3-hectare property is dedicated for recreational amenities that include swimming pools, jogging paths and landscaped gardens

BEDROOM

DWN YOUR own piece of Makati now. SM Development Corp. (SMDC) recently launched the Cello Tower, the last building of Jazz Residences, to guests and investors at the SMDC Grand Showroom.

Jazz Residences, SMDC's premiere project in Makati City at the corner of Buendia Avenue Extension (formerly Bypass) Street and Metropolitan Avenue in posh Barangay Bel-Air, is a 2.3-hectare residential property composed of four buildings: Violin Tower, Piano Tower, Clarinet Tower, and Cello Tower. Cello Tower, the last to be completed among the four towers, offers stunning views of Makati from all its sides.

Jazz Residences exudes a chic resolute character with a prime location calling Makati's core and cultural hub due features an array of artists' ateliers, artistry shops, and chic restaurants. Like other Torre SMDC projects, Jazz Residences features an array of cuttingedge amenities such as exclusive retail area, swimming pools, jogging paths, a fitness gym, landscaped gardens, and the sky lounge that offers an impressive view of the Makati skyline.

The Jazz Mall at the property's podium level includes an SM Supermarket branch, restaurants, kiosks, and other commercial establishments that provide residents with their essential and lifestyle needs. Jazz Residences residents also enjoy a convenience access to the central business district with a bridge way that connects the property to Salcedo Village.

"The sophisticated yet urban charm of Jazz Residences makes it the ideal home for young professionals, entrepreneurs, and families who want to have a luxurious piece of Makati," said SMDC vice chair and CEO Henry Sy Jr. "SMDC continues to aspire to provide the quintessential one residences in prime locations."

Units are almost sold-out, as customers on SMDC property specialist to get your own luxurious place in the heart of Makati. For more information, call 858-0200 or (09 17) 3005151, or log on to www.smdc.com. You can also visit the showroom at the second floor of Conrad Center, Jupiter corner N. Garcia St., Bel-Air, Makati City.

Filinvest City evolves into a modern lifestyle mecca

HOME theatre schedule, the expansion of Festival Supermall is a reaffirmation of Filinvest City's commitment to give everyone a cutting-edge garden city life.

LIFESTYLE, development, progress, evolution... these are the keywords that make a city vibrant and exciting. For people to live and grow in a city, the metropolis has to evolve and grow to be able to adapt and provide for its residents' ever-changing needs.

This is what Filinvest City is all about. What started out as an empty field is now a city that exhibits tremendous growth potential, and even indicates one of the most dynamic mixed business districts (CBD) in the country today, and plays host to some of the biggest and most visible companies in the country.

The next big phase of the evolution of Filinvest City is now underway, reaffirming its mandate as a flourishing and living city where everyone can enjoy a multi-dimensional and cosmopolitan lifestyle with access to a refreshing backdrop.

With new and exciting developments being put in place, the evolution of Filinvest City is coming naturally, and is being redefined as a true modern metropolis where life's little pleasures and conveniences are within easy reach.

"Since its establishment, Filinvest City has provided countless opportunities in all areas the quality of life via its retail centers, office buildings, residential communities, and leisure areas. And although Filinvest City has already transformed life in the south, it perpetually undergoes changes to meet, and even exceed, the demands of the times," says Filinvest Stalking, Inc.'s executive vice president Kim Bagaia.

"At Filinvest, our aim is to provide everyone the best live + work + play experience," Bagaia continues. "Our way to achieve this is to make business and living much more exciting with shopping, dining, arts, culture, leisure and entertainment options... all in one city."

This is Filinvest City's commitment to evolve into a modern lifestyle mecca.

One of the first major rewards this is the expansion of Festival Supermall, which will add more greens, outdoor promenades and more sensible space. The expansion will add 130,000 sqm gross floor area to its retail expanse, and 58,000 sqm to its gross leasable area currently housing more than 700 retail establishments. This will see the Festival Mall as the largest regional shopping center in the southern side of Metro Manila.

Alongside the expansion are more modern upscale architectural and interior designs and the addition of various mall amenities and features such as: The Festival Walk which will be connected to the viewpoint Sub Level Station; the Silver Deck where one can enjoy al fresco dining by the living creek, and the Water Garden which will house an amphitheater.

Moreover, Filinvest City will flourish into a city surrounded by the most happening events in the metro. For starters, the amphitheater in the new Festival Supermall will be built along the River Park, where one can enjoy live concerts outdoors and will be able to accommodate 1,000 people. Surrounded by patches of greens and water fountains, the Pershing and Forum Pavilion in the Water Garden district provides a secluded place to intimately celebrate one of life's most important events.

In addition, South Station which is situated near the city's entrance will have a few events venue within its in-house wedding hole, The Cella. This will house a number of restaurant offering a myriad of gastronomic delights of affordable grills and pizza choices to congregate and dine. With five hotels gracing on a regular basis, here, one can unwind with colleagues after a long, stressful day.

Kohler's most advanced toilet showcased at BCI Asia 2012 in Manila

BCI Top Ten Architects awardees Pimentel, Reyes, Simbulan and Partners (PRSP)

KOHLER Co., a global leader in kitchen and bath design and technology, graced the BCI Asia Awards in Manila recently to showcase its most advanced toilet yet, the Numi. Held recently at Makati Shangri-La's Quezon Ballroom, the awarding ceremony held in various Asian cities is considered the region's most exclusive, by invitation only annual event for top architects in building professionals.

Aside from its presence in Manila, the Silestonia-based global brand demonstrated its support and appreciation for the elite architectural profession by its participation in two other key regional markets, Indonesia and Vietnam, through its participation as sponsor in this year's annual awarding ceremony.

Since 2005, the BCI Asia Top 10 awards has become a prestigious label of excellence and success in Asian architecture that gauges who the leading developers and architectural firms are, and their importance in shaping and influencing the built environment.

As the global design and technology leader of products in the kitchen and bath, Kohler Co. offers leading-edge products that lead the way in design, craftsmanship and innovation—including the Numi toilet. The Kohler brand's more innovative toilet-to-date combines sensor-based design, intelligent engineering to bring the finest in personal comfort and cleansing. From its molding form and features to its contained power efficiency, the Numi toilet marks a new standard of excellence in the bathroom.

Featuring a range of luxurious features, the Numi wows the bar in toilet technology with a sleek, innovative LCD touch screen interface, a built-in toilet seat deodorizer, wand that capability, an intuitive automatic open and close lid and seat, a built-in night options and a heated seat.

High Life and Sports Equals Great Investments and Healthy Living at New San Jose Builders

New San Jose Builders Inc. (NSJBI), the leader in the affordable housing frontier, has as its core calling Filipino families with dwellings that are quite centered, convenient and value-laden. A reflection of this belief is the company's slew of "sports condos" or condominiums that offer host sports complexes.

Victoria Station 2 along EDSA in Quezon City and Victoria de Manila 2 at Taft Avenue, Manila have an array of sports facilities – badminton, squash and basketball courts, a multi-purpose hall, jogging trail, an area for bowling alley, billiard tables, Lego and impromptu Olympic-size swimming pool.

An investment in healthy living

"Whilst guests are treated and, by extension, whole communities, the opportunity to choose healthy living by providing the ambiance where they can engage in sports. Too often, urbanites don't go to exercise because they often lack the resources to have a gym membership or have one not enough space (gyms or facilities where they live," according to Head de Dios, Sales Head of Victoria Station 2. Ms. de Dios added that Victoria Station 2 provides residents to live the high life while also making an investment in healthy living.

According to de Dios, family sports are a great way to spend time together. Naturally, sizes of open possibilities for teaching children about fair play, it also has numerous health benefits as well. She pointed out that swimming, as one where sports can contribute to wellness, weight management, disease prevention, and sleep promotion.

"An hour of basketball can burn approximately 200 calories while an hour of swimming can burn around 492 calories. In addition, swimmers can help boost your immune system by facilitating the production and circulation of macrophages which are a leukocyte in the body," explains De Dios. "Exercise can also help you sleep better because increases endorphins and your system, helping you relax. Getting a full night's rest a week's tiring high energy and is motivated around throughout the day."

Community Central

"Victoria de Manila 2 is a value-laden project, it is truly in the affordable housing bracket. Prospective homeowners will be delighted to find there a mini Victoria de Manila 2 community with friendly price range and affordable terms," says Manny Estrella, Sales Head of Victoria de Manila 1 and 2.

"The affordability of the units plus the convenience of having shopping centers, hospitals as well as churches right at its doorstep make it ideal for growing families as well as young couples," Estrella says. Victoria de Manila 2 is a walk away from Ateneo de Manila University, the Philippine General Hospital and from the Metro Centerpoint of the LRT. It is also a 20-minute ride from Makati's Central Business District.

Soon to rise. New San Jose Builders Inc. (NSJBI) Chairman Jesus L. Azcarraga holds up a time capsule during the groundbreaking ceremony of Victoria de Manila 2 in Taft Avenue, Manila. Joining him are (from left), Alejo Hernandez, Sales Head of NSJBI's Universal Sales Group, Jun De Leon, Executive Vice President for Construction and Ingrid Bermas, Co-Chairman of NSJBI.

The project's proximity to the nation's top schools and universities also make it a perfect dwelling for students. The Philippine Women's University (PWU), the Mendiola campus of the University of the Philippines as well as the Philippine Christian University are just short walks away from Victoria de Manila. Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines, Diliman and Miriam College are just minutes away, in addition, shopping centers like the Cubao Ateneo, Trinoma and Old North EDSA are also easily accessible from Victoria Station 2.

"We provide quality homes for the modern Filipino family – that family that's always on the go and who appreciates quality, convenience, and a healthy community," explains De Dios.

Both developments have on-site food serving, function rooms and child-friendly spaces. For more information, visit www.nsjbi.net

Fort Victoria

Victoria Towers

Victoria Station

Victoria Station 2

Victoria de Malate

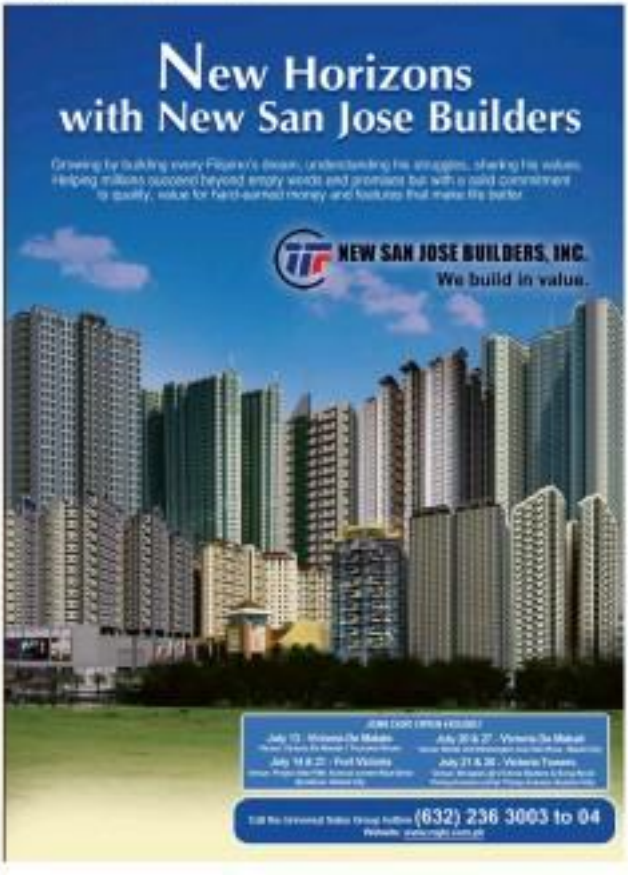
Victoria de Tomas Morato

Victoria de Makati

Victoria de Makati

Victoria de Manila

Victoria de Manila 2



DMCI Homes project at the center of growth in the North

North EDSA in Quezon City can be considered to be one of the most progressive areas of Metro Manila – and it's easy to understand why.

This bustling part of QC is a melting pot of convenience, with a combination of established institutions, commercial hubs, and quirky to classy lifestyle centers that truly brings life to this side of the Metro.

Major malls such as SM North EDSA and Trinoma (still) allow everything that a person needs, be it for the home, fashion, and other necessities. These malls also offer some of the city's most high-tech movie houses where one can spend some relaxing moments enjoying the latest blockbusters.

Top educational institutions also abound for families who believe that getting exceptional education is a must in choosing a new address, such as UP Diliman, Miriam College and Ateneo De Manila University. Some of the best Medical and Health facilities are also within easy reach such as Capitol Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital.

Some of the most hip lifestyle hubs on the other hand, are also within the vicinity of North EDSA. Here, residents can enjoy tipsy different cuisines along the restaurant havens of Timog and Tomas Morato, or enjoy the clubbing scenes of surrounding areas. No matter what music or vibe preference you have, one is likely to find a spot in North Edsa.

Ideal address

This is the reason why this part of the casino is considered an ideal address for people looking for a permanent location to call their own – and premiere property developer, DMCI Homes, offers just that.

Introducing Zinnia Towers – a tropical-themed paradise within Quezon City tucked in a peaceful corner along EDSA-Mother. The area is known to old residential communities that are ideal for raising a family.

This high-rise residential development situated in the peaceful side of the neighborhood, is just a few minutes' drive from the city's commercial centers, medical facilities and learning institutions.

Its proximity to EDSA gives it access to major transportation hubs easily linking it to other parts of the metro.

At Zinnia Towers, future residents will get to enjoy the peace and quiet of a suburban community and the accessibility of a city address.

Creating experiences

Zinnia Towers is another of DMCI Homes' resort-inspired residences that has redefined modern living in the metro. The project will offer future residents with world-class amenities and architecture that cater to the taste of young discerning families.

Designed to be a family-oriented residential enclave, it is complete with all the facilities needed for families to spend quality time with each other within the comforts of a safe and secure community.

A swimming pool complex which includes a lap pool and a kiddie pool are the ones for this tropical-themed condominium village.

Jogging paths along tropical gardens create an ideal setting for bonding moments with your loved ones. The Sky Lounge, with a picturesque view of the metro's skyline, can play host to intimate gatherings with friends while the Clubhouse can mark special occasions with the family. For the health buffs, a fully-equipped fitness gym can also be the perfect venue to meet the neighbors.

Green Architecture

The project will pioneer the Luminent technology in the Quezon City area. This design technology is a combination of DMCI's signature single loaded corridors, three storey high openings at the front and back of the towering buildings called Sky Patios, and breezeways located on the left and right wing of every floor, which allows natural light and airflow into every unit.

The community is composed of two high-rise buildings surrounded by lush greeneries. Following a tropical-themed architecture, the design was conceptualized to revolve around the basic elements of light, water and space which integrates a lush landscape and modern structures.

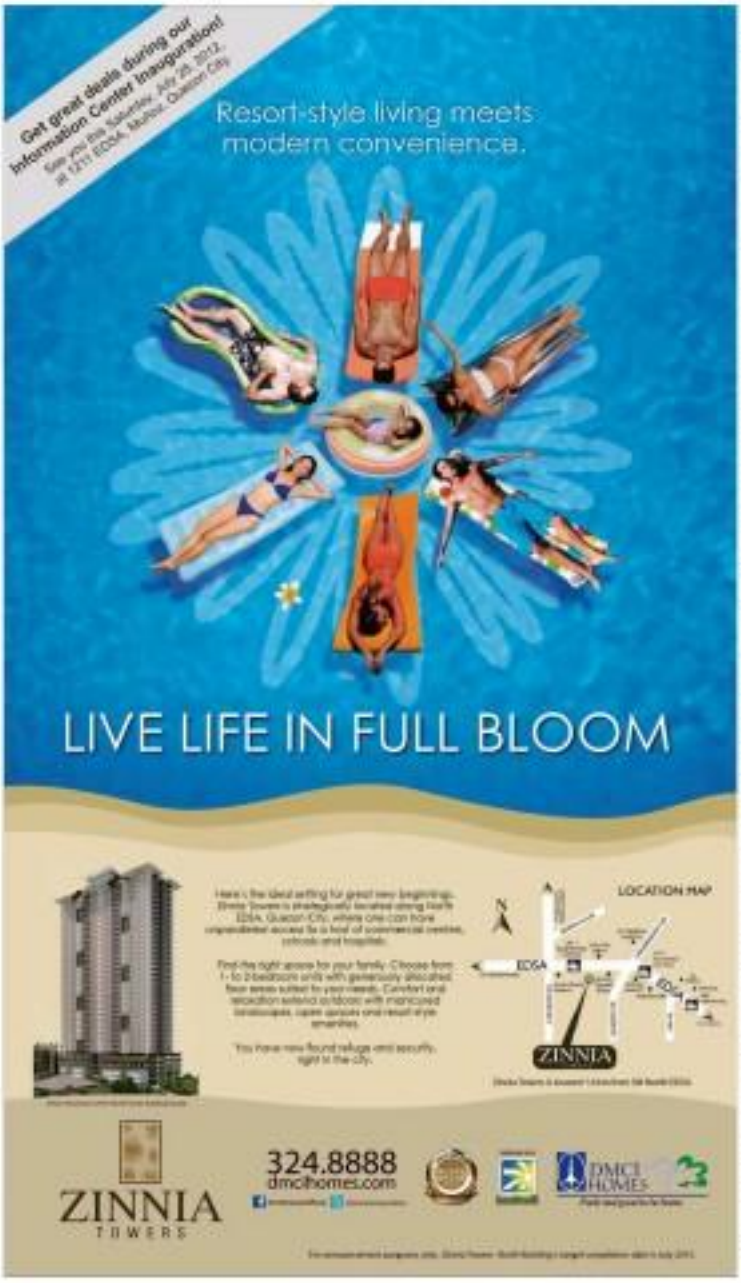
Modern condo living

Carrying a contemporary tropical theme, this resort-inspired community will be the first high-rise project of DMCI Homes which will feature its own Clubhouse. The unit mix is composed of a studio unit, one-, two and three-bedroom units with a gross floor area ranging from 25sqm to 82sqm. There will be about 1,652 units available with prices between Php1.86M to Php6.4M.

Condo living is made worry-free at Zinnia Towers with a trusted Property Management Office (PMO) to take charge of the everyday operations ensuring the security and maintenance of the property and its facilities.

Zinnia Towers is a premier condo community project of DMCI Homes – a company of innovative builders and engineering experts that develop modern day living solutions for urban families. Each of its developments is built with world-standard craftsmanship borne from D.M. Consunji Inc.'s almost 40 years of experience in the construction and development industry. DMCI Homes offers its customers the highest level of expertise and its strict adherence to global standards. It's corporate philosophy is anchored on a deep understanding that buying a home is more about investing in a better way of living. Zinnia Towers is the perfect celebration of this timely proposition. Thanks to this feature-rich ideally located community, residents can finally enjoy a more comfortable and meaningful way of life where they can feel real good to be home.

For inquiries on Zinnia Towers and other DMCI Homes projects, please call 324.8888 or visit the website www.dmcihomes.com



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LV CLASSIC Rebecca Ruiz

LOUIS Vuitton Classic Serenissima Run. The cars were put on display at Piazza San Giorgio in Venice.

LV and premium cars— a historic partnership

THE PRIZE-GIVING ceremony of the Louis Vuitton Classic Serenissima Run took place recently at Piazza San Giorgio, where the cars were put on display in Venice.

Yves Carcelle, Louis Vuitton think CEO Christian Philippon, president of the jury and selection of cars, and Henri Metge, sports director, awarded the 1913 Bugatti Type 13 Brescia Modèle.

After having won the first four places in the 1921 Indian Vetturetta Grand Prix at Brescia with the Type 13, Bugatti built an improved version called Type 23 or Brescia Modèle. Powered by a 1.1-litre, four-cylinder engine with four valves per cylinder, it carried a wide variety of coachwork, including some exquisite detail with its staggered seating arrangement. This same car already won the last Louis Vuitton Classic Run in 2006 at the Bodensee/Sun.

True to the "Bal of Travel" spirit which characterized the Modena, the Louis Vuitton Classic Serenissima Run is the seventh rally organized by JS since the legendary Mercedes Express Run created in 1992.

Through this rally, LV pays tribute to its historic association with the world of motoring since the creation of the first car trunk in 1897.

On April 24, 42 exceptional cars set

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PR ROCKY Evangelista of the Tuloy Foundation, a shelter for street children

Phil and James Younghusband to compete against each other—for fun and charity

The 'Clear Dream Match' is an all-star game for the benefit of Tuloy Foundation

By Irene C. Perez

THE YOUNGHUSBAND brothers, who have led the Azkals into becoming a popular and winning national team, will now form their own football teams... for the "Clear Dream Match."

It is an all-star game for the benefit of Tuloy Foundation, and the first time James and Phil will compete against each other.

The game will be on Aug. 22 at the University of Makati football field, and will be open to the public. It will be a friendly but competitive match. Phil said in a tweet interview at Bankwell Tent, Makati.

The Younghusbands are the latest endorsers of Clear Men Deep Cleanse, an anti-dandruff menthol shampoo with activated carbon, created specifically for sporty men.

Online drafting

Fans are part of the drafting. Online voting, ongoing until Aug. 21, will determine who goes into Phil and James' respective "dream teams." To vote, like the Clear page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/clear), and go to the Clear Stadium app.

The app has a "ballot" where one can vote for his or her favorite players for the forward, midfielder, defender and goalkeeper positions. The 40 players with the highest scores will be drafted into two teams.

There are 16 candidates... a mix of professional athletes, models, celebrities and radio DJs. Among them are United Football League's Antoni Del Rosario, Nate Brelles, Freddy Quincudes, Eric Dapoza.

College varsity scenes are represented by Patrick Deyto of De La Salle University, Wilbo Makasing of Ateneo de Manila University and Mariñas Mikoogan of University of Santo Tomas.

Kaya FC member Aiyash Bumaya and Philippine Volcanoes players Andrew Wolff and Eric Tai are also among those to be drafted.

Swardless models Isacel Marasigan and Nikko Ide also want to play, with TV stars Becky Bailderas, Rafael Sinuff and Ada Carmona. Even Ely Tesoro and Black Pink are hoping to make it to the roster.

CLEAR assistant brand manager Carlos Corrales, Unilever digital manager Nelle Capito, James Younghusband, Unilever PR and events manager Nikki Rivella, Phil Younghusband, Clear brand manager John Imperial

Football for healing

Clear brand manager John Imperial said the tie-up between Clear, the Younghusband and Tuloy Foundation is anchored on two things—the love of football.

"Real Madrid player Cristiano Ronaldo is the international endorser for Clear; here, we have the Younghusbands," Imperial said. "It's Becky, who heads Tuloy Foundation, is a big football fan."

To Becky Evangelista-Jun ray Tuloy Foundation is 1000% to some children off the streets. The organization provides them a home, education and skills so later they can work and become independent.

According to the Tuloy Foundation website, from an initial number of 12 children who shared a small room, the group has been able to serve over 18,000 kids. The small shelter has grown into the 4.5-hectare property now known as the Tuloy sa Don Bosco Street Children Village.

Part of the kids' "healing" activities is playing football, a sport Evangelista loves. "I am 70-years old and I stopped playing only recently," he said.

Responsibility

Tickets will not be sold for the game (they will be available for free—details to be provided on the Clear Facebook page), Imperial said. Clear will help Tuloy Foundation by supplying P500,000 worth of sustenance (food, groceries). The county will also support projects like football clinics and the rehabilitation of the bunkhouse's field.

Phil, who established the Younghusband football academy encourages kids and adults alike to play.

"Don't be scared or intimidated. Football has become more accessible, although it takes getting used to, just like dancing and singing. It is also a way of socializing, learning teamwork, values and discipline."

Evangelista added that football helped her two sons' kids become more confident and active, and reminded the professional players that they "have a responsibility" to those kids who look up to them as role models.

Visit www.facebook.com/clear, www.tuloyfoundation.org.

PLAYING FOR THE STREET KIDS. (From) Rich Olivares, Steeven Silva, Paolo Bautistas, Mikhi Mabuyag, Tennis Tesoro, DJ Tony Toni, Clear brand manager John Imperial, Doctor/Fr. Rocky Evangelista, Andrew Wolff, Marvin Kaslor, DJ Slick Rick, Daniel Matsunaga, James and Phil Younghusband, Antoni and Armand de Rosario, Patrick Deyto

LV and premium cars . . .

From page C1

off from Monaco and around the borders of France, Switzerland and Italy via roads. Route: a five days later.

The participants set off on a 1000-km long journey, stopping off at Mandelieu-la-Napoule, Arenas, Vienna and Nevers-d'Arbois, the birthplace of Louis Vuitton's shoes. There the cars were transported by boat to Venice to be presented on the plaza San Giorgio for the weekend.

Since 2002, LV has been giving away not two Louis Vuitton Classic Awards. The Louis Vuitton Concours award rewards the car that was "best in show" to one of the most prestigious classic car shows in the world, while the Louis Vuitton Concept Award rewards the "prototype of the year," a model likely to win great car shows in the 40 years to come.

Coke-McDo glasses celebrate London 2012 Olympics

THE COCA-COLA Company and McDonald's will celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Games with custom-made Coca-Cola/London 2012 Olympic Games glasses.

From July 8 to 31, consumers can collect six different colored glasses embossed with official London 2012 Olympic Games sport pictograms. These unique Coca-Cola glasses will be available at McDonald's and will come in pink, green, blue, aqua, charcoal and purple.

Each glass is embossed with an official London 2012 Olympic Games sport pictogram—gymnastics, archery, swimming, basketball, football and cycling.

Simply add P25 to every medium-size value meal to get one Coca-Cola glass.

"For Coca-Cola Company mainstay for Integrity continues relationship with the Olympic Movement. Coca-Cola first sponsored the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, and has provided refreshing beverages and supported every Olympic Games since. It also has developed a proud tradition of creative programs and events to bring the spirit of the Games to consumers in Olympic Games host cities and around the world.

In the 1956 Olympic Winter Games, McDonald's archfoil hamburgers to US athletes competing in Grenoble, France.

After they were used that they were homesick for McDonald's food. Since then, the fast-food firm has served its menu of choice and variety to millions of athletes, their families and fans.

The London 2012 Olympic Games marks the 16th consecutive game for McDonald's as the official restaurant of the Olympic Games, and the only branded food service retailer feeding the athletes.

COKE-MCDO glasses in green, blue (below) and pink (left)

'Vampire Diaries' star heats up Bench rainy season campaign

"VAMPIRE DIARIES" star Michael Trevino is back in character in his stint as Bench's endorser, wearing the brand's Intimates Collection. He bears up the sexy-to-casual pieces worn with panache.

Slim, dark-stone jeans paired with a snug tank top show off the strong star's physique. For a more dressed-up affair, he's in black pole-and-skinny pants.

Maximizing the military trend, he tries on an army green V-neck with epaulettes on the shoulders, dressed down with blue jeans.

For cowboy style, he trades in the tee for a chambray polo, and finally, of course, strips down to the bare essentials, showing the basic hipster briefs from Bench Body.

The young star, who plays a werewolf on the hit show, looks every bit the easygoing and effortlessly good looking actor that he is. Greek plays this up to the max, quite paradoxically, with simple separates that allow Michael to show off his natural appeal.

The Bench collection has classic denim pieces, staple V-neck T-shirts, basic polo knitwear downs and trimmed.

NEW Bench endorser in smart-casual look (above) and hipster briefs he'll wear this label

MICHAEL Trevino stills in Bench.

Hollywood stars and their Prada

WHETHER on the red carpet or on the streets, Hollywood stars love Prada. Celebrities are seen on the streets sipping their style with chic and practical bags from the season's collections.

The Prada Bicolor canvas and buffalo bag lends a sophisticated edge to Jessica Alba's look.

Meanwhile, pop superstar Kylie Minogue has been photographed carrying an ivory Madras bag, while Swedish actress Noomi Rapace attended the premiere of "Prometheus" in Paris carrying the latest shape in canvas and fabrics.

Australian model Miranda Kerr has been seen carrying the Prada Pyramide bag, a new iconic piece from the house. Prada's Pyramide collection is crafted with the brand's traditional buffalo leather, its texture effect created with a hot metal and gives a deeper, more three-dimensional look.

The choice of Stilhano boots adresses to the brand's will to create a new style icon, designed to endure while fashion trends come and go.

In the Philippines, Prada is exclusively distributed by Rustan Specialty Inc., and is available at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

KYLIE Minogue with Prada's iconic Madras bag (inset)

JESSICA Alba (left) with the Prada Bicolor Canvas and Saffiano bag (inset); Noomi Rapace using a Prada bag at the "Prometheus" premiere in Paris

MIRANDA Kerr (left) with the Prada Pyramide bag

Krispy Kreme Celebrates 75 Years of Melt-In-Your-Mouth Joy

As Krispy Kreme turns 75 flavorful years this 2012, the world-famous doughnut and coffee brand continues to top the taste buds and heartstrings of more and more people while sharing and celebrating delicious tastes and fond memories.

Spanning more than 690 shops in 21 countries, Krispy Kreme has been exciting the world with distinct confectionery experience brought by its delectable variety of doughnuts, baked goods, and coffee. Hence, it wasn't a surprise to witness how the brand touched the hearts and tickled the palates of Pilipinos when it arrived in the Philippines six years ago. And as it continues to successfully expand in the country, Krispy Kreme is bringing everyone more reasons to smile—not only with its mouth-watering delights but also with projects that resonate with the lives of their valued customers.

Furthering its Heritage of Sharing

Here recently does Krispy Kreme aim to do that? One by helping its 12 partner charities—13 organizations that care for the environment, ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. – Bantay Kalikasan and Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society Inc.; creativity: Cultural Center of the Philippines, Visual Arts and Museum Division; lives: Contra Manila Inc., Philippine Red Cross, and Kanlurang Pilipinas Animal Welfare Society; and of course, kids: Classmates Smile Philippines, Kythe Inc., Development and Accessibility Fund for the Deaf Inc., Autism Society Philippines, and Friends of Hope Inc.

Being a remarkable doughnut and coffee brand that humbly upholds the value of 'sharing', Krispy Kreme extends this good deed by calling everyone to reach hand to hand towards change. With every purchase of the brand's 75th Birthday Tin Can, P30 goes to these partner charities, which translates every purchase to doing good, bringing smiles, creating change and spreading joy in the most enjoyable and delightful way possible.

Bringing Everyone More Reasons to Smile

Keeping up with its 75th birthday celebration, Krispy Kreme will also be rolling out fresh products, bringing more options and reasons for its customers to delight in the one-of-a-kind goodness brought by doughnuts and coffee.

From July 9 to August 19, the brand will be launching its birthday treats for everyone—the Krispy Kreme Birthday Doughnuts and the Krispy Kreme Birthday Chiller. Infused with such melt-in-your-mouth joy, the White Chocolate Iced Glazed, Dark Chocolate Iced Glazed, and Strawberry Iced Glazed Doughnuts are iced glazed rings with rainbow sprinkles and a generous dollop of white cream finished with a cherry. Meanwhile, blended with refreshing goodness, the Birthday Chiller is an iced chocolate drink with sprinkles made even more special with Hershey's Dark chocolate.

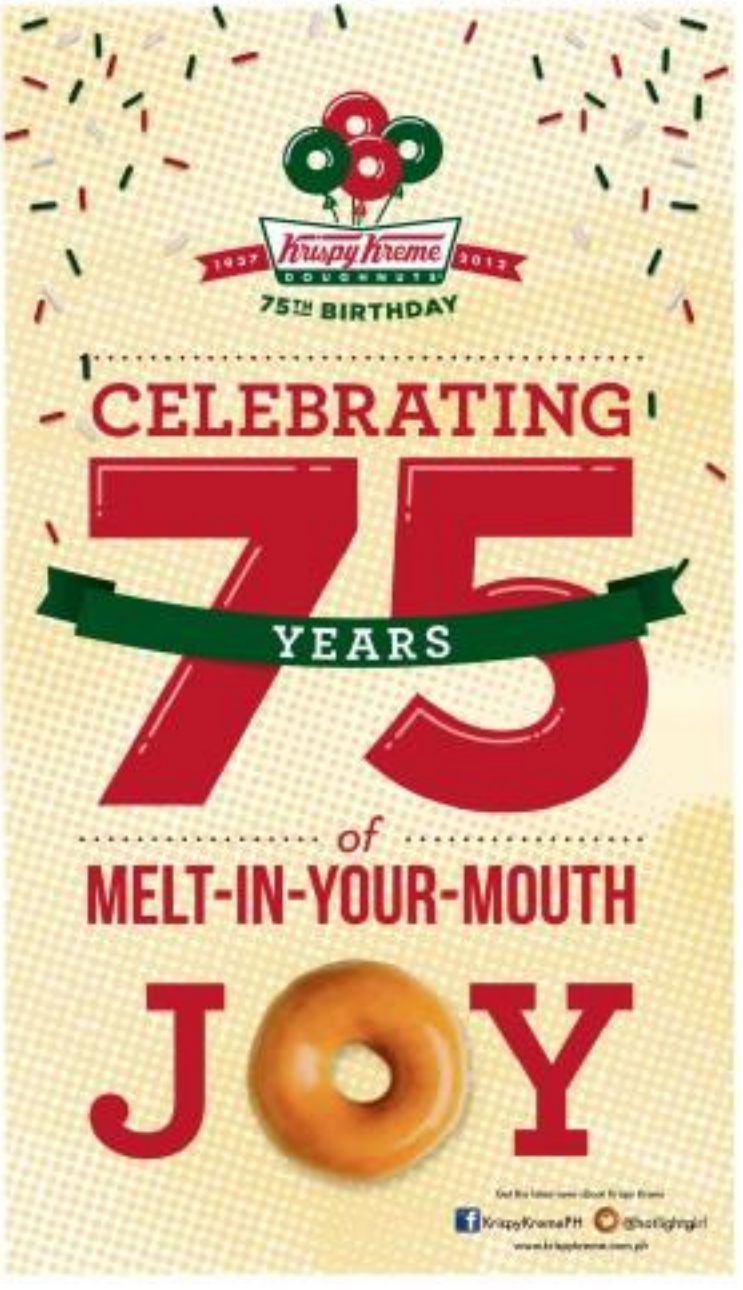
To further the celebration, from July 9 to August 8, anyone who purchases a Dozen Assorted with any of the Birthday Doughnuts, then coupled with one Birthday Chiller of any size in a single transaction will be entitled to one raffle coupon. This raffle coupon, which will be drawn on the 9th of August 10, gives a customer a chance to win 10 VIP tickets to watch Saltimbanco by Cirque du Soleil at the SM Mall of Asia Arena on August 17. In addition, Cirque du Soleil will be giving discounts for tickets acquired at Krispy Kreme stores upon purchase of a Dozen Assorted coupled with a Birthday Doughnut.

And because Krispy Kreme cannot get enough of sharing the gift of joy and bringing people more reasons to smile, from July 12 to 31, everyone will be able to grab a special bundle of an Original Glazed Doughnut and an 8 oz. cup of Signature Coffee for only P75!

The birthday blowout doesn't end here because Krispy Kreme's birthday treats are set to go beyond just bites and sips, as it will also be rolling out 75th Birthday merchandise, which includes caps, mugs, shirts, tumblers, ECO bags, and of course, the 75th Birthday Tin Cans.

As it continues to uphold its warm and melt-in-flavors in our hearts, Krispy Kreme is on the move to make it easier for everyone to experience melt-in-your-mouth joy with such fresh offerings and new stores — continuing to expand its reach to satisfy the tastes of doughnut and coffee enthusiasts across the country.

Serving world-class doughnuts and coffee since 1937, Krispy Kreme made its way to the hearts of Filipinos when it opened its first branch in the country back in 2006. Today, Krispy Kreme has outlets in 23 different locations nationwide, with twilight stores in SM Mall of Asia, Greenhills Shopping Center, Festival Supermall Alabang, Bonifacio High Street and Cebu IT Park. To get more information and updates about the brand and its products, you may become a friend of Krispy Kreme by visiting www.krispykreme.com.ph or by liking Chloe at www.facebook.com/ChloeKrispyKremePH.



26U LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing Editor Shel Calvo

Acing it: Or how he placed 2nd in the architecture board exam

Says this UP Mindanao graduate: 'The only things you cannot do are the things you have not attempted to do'

ALEXIS proudly wears the UP ashlay

By Jean Rance Daga
Correspondent, UP Mindanao

UP MINDANAO ARCHITECTURE graduate Alexis Iris S. Ustmarine, 25, casually mentions that Architecture students are diligent and hardworking—and that these are two adjectives not applicable to him.

But the June 2012 Architecture Licensure Exam's (ALE) results indicated otherwise: Alexis ranked second, at 83.30 percent, closely following the first placer's 83.80 percent.

He's now one step closer to his dream of establishing his own architecture firm.

Just another student

His journey started the day he decided to shift to Architecture at the University of the Philippines Mindanao, from Computer Science. He describes himself as a slacker—"I am not the most diligent type of student, I only get serious when I am challenged."

He views some of his alter school routines: hanging out with friends, watching movies with his girlfriend or playing PC games.

In his seemingly lazy student lifestyle, he finished the five-year course and eventually found himself one afternoon restlessly punching F9 in a computer's keyboard to refresh an Internet browser that showed the ALE results.

He rejoiced. He slapped high fives with his Architecture buddies. He wore a big smile that couldn't be measured by a T-square. He ranked second and exceeded his own expectations.

Did Alexis ever see it coming? Yes.

Prophecy

"Before the exams, there were a lot of unusual things that happened. A friend, who claimed she has the ability to dream of things that will happen, texted me that she saw my name on the list of topnotchers," he recalls. "That was about three months before the exams!"

Before the review, he'd joke around, telling his schoolmates and friends that he would top the board exam. "Maybe I wanted to make the joke and the fortune-telling a reality. Maybe that was why I decided to aim for the top spot," Alexis says.

With words optimism, he did get what he wanted.

But he had to go through a series of funny encounters on the day of the exam: forgetting the room number assigned him, being overwhelmed and nervous. (Alexis says that taking a deep breath didn't work for him), and being intimidated by smart-looking examinees.

Then he hit his gold mine: three pages of questions were on the history of architecture. "My favorite subject back in college," he says.

His review routines, which entailed the appropriate use of long- and short-term memory, served him well. The exam result was more than he could ask for.

2012 talks to Alexis about university life, the whirlwind world of an Architecture student and the needs of mindanao he lives by.

How would you describe your college life?

My life in college was a battle between diligence and indifference. I experienced failure in a few subjects. I am not the most diligent type.

Dong Xiaoping's maxim, "Hide your true strength, bide your time" is somehow a reflection of me. When it is time to come out, you come out, then strike but with stylow.

Describe a day in the life of an Architecture student.

Sleepless days due to costly plates, restless days after sleepless nights, and in the case of UP Mindanao Architecture students, days when there are flying miniature train and house models when you transport them to school on the dubal.dubal (a motorcycle that is the most means of transportation around the campus).

What's the best thing about studying Architecture and finishing it?

We can give the world a more

days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher.

Find a mentor and learn as much as you can.

What are the words of wisdom you always live by?

The only things you cannot do are the things you have not attempted to do. Perseverance is the key to overcoming trying times.

There are also times people doubt and criticize you, do not get distracted, and use those two things to fuel your drive toward victory.

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DARE: to do what a distressed look

Denim rescue

How to give old jeans a new life

By Jerico Villamora
Correspondent
San Beda College, Class 2011

SLOUCHY SHORTS are cool, but instead of buying a pair, why not turn your old jeans into perfect-fitting shorts?

All you have to do is rummage through your closet—or even that of your parents—and look for pairs of outdated jeans.

Things you'll need:

- Scissors
- Pair of old jeans

Important note: Think first about how you want your new but less often-worn wardrobe denizen to look like.

- One of the easiest ways to reinvent a pair of jeans is to cut them up. To get the look you want, using scissors, cut the point right where you are comfortable in terms of length. For girls, it can be cuts inches right below the booty level, or they're short but not "Playboy playmate"-sexy. Boys can try no-cuts or two inches below the knee. You can also (carefully) pull some yarn strands or some of the frayed edges to achieve your desired look. Test your jeans in the washing machine with a bit of bleach for a more aged feel and frayed edges.
- If you want a more rugged look, you shouldn't shrink it like you mean it! Study your contours and decide where you want some inches to hang. Estimate how long you want the strings of fabric to be even. Boys: cool thinking. Secure the fabric horizontally with your scissors until you see the white strings. (I would look more yummy if you place the tattered ends below the pockets and the pocket opening itself.
- Folding is another option. If frayed edges are too much for your taste, you can fold or cut off your jeans right below the knee-cap and fold to your preferred length.
- Remember, finding your jeans in the washing machine will enhance the fun and future of your jeans.

TURN old jeans into a pair of perfect-but-fitting shorts.

ALL you need is a pair of old jeans.

Bear in mind that you don't always need to splurge on clothing to have a good sense of style. It's also big to rely and match pieces that are vintage, used, non-conventional, etc. Ask your parents or even your grandparents if you can raid their closet; who knows what interesting pieces you may find. Be practical, creative and resourceful.

Catch the last of Tomato's mid-season sale

TOUCH BRAND: Tomato and Tomato Street men's lines are going at up to 50 percent off the last weekend of its mid-season sale, until July 16. The stylish finds can help update colored wardrobes, from basic graphic tees to casual and sweater tops and an array of denim washes. Whether it's boxed pullovers or printed sweatshirts, the Tomato mid-season sale has the rest.

MENS dress shirts in different designs

GRAPHIC tees at shorts

DENIM jeans in an array of colors and washes

FAUX leather jacket in camel

Dell-icious!

XPS 15 shows off Dell's recent fashionable overhaul

By Joshua A.T. Dy
Contributor
dimsy@hotmail.com/@joshuatdy

SLIM AND METHODICAL is all the rage these days, and so one of the largest laptop manufacturers in the world, Dell lost a league of advantage on this department.

It has just added a couple of models to its higher-end XPS line of laptops, which was launched earlier with the XPS 13.

The latest addition, XPS 15, which hangs well with the 13-inch sister, is—you guessed it—slim and packed with features.

Unibody aesthetic

XPS 15 is superficially reminiscent of Apple's MacBook Pro line of notebooks, except possibly better-looking. The new Dell is thinner than the standard MacBook Pro, though just a bit thicker than the new Retina model. It sports a gorgeous aluminum and magnesium chassis that mirrors Apple's aesthetic. The lid and laptop's base are single pieces of milled gray aluminum, while the palm rests and keyboard surround are darker magnesium. This doesn't feel as cold to the touch and is a slightly softer metal—perfect for typing. It also helps to keep the weight down.

Transitions all that metal and a lot of attention to detail, the build is good, with very solid hinges action and sturdy metal panels. The only plastic parts are the keyboard keys and screen surround, though the latter is protected by a single glass sheet that gives a seamless display impression.

Each computer comes with a spill-resistant, Oracle-style keyboard that's back-lit, too!

Cheaper but not less chic

With XPS 15, you can even opt for Blu-ray. It's pretty interesting that Dell chose to stick to an optical drive, while some manufacturers are looking past the format. This makes an excellent alternative for users who want to upgrade, but need the CD/DVD capability.

The Retina version of the MacBook Pro is a notch end for devices. If you're looking for outstanding 1080p display, however, the XPS 15 should be on the top of your list—above the non-Retina MacBook Pro 15. Dell has proved that you can make an affordable laptop that makes no compromises in design, and does on product.

Full specs:

- Aluminum display lock, magnesium palm rest
- 39.6-cm, 1920x1080 display
- Edge-to-edge Gorilla Glass
- Up to Intel Core i7-3612QM processor
- Integrated Intel HD Graphics, optional NVIDIA GeForce GT 640M 2GB
- 6GB to 16GB DDR3 SDRAM
- 500GB HDD + 32GB mSATA SSD standard
- Back-lit spill-resistant Chiclet keyboard
- Three multi-touch trackpad with integrated buttons
- DVI + HDMI (for desktop drive, optional Blu-ray)
- 802.11 a/b/g/n + Bluetooth 4.0
- 1x USB 3.0, 1x mini-DVI to HDMI, 1x RJ-45, SD card slot, battery (6-cell removable)
- Intel Centrino Advanced-N 6235 802.11 a/b/g/n + Bluetooth 4.0
- 1x USB 3.0, 1x mini-DVI to HDMI, 1x RJ-45, SD card slot, headset jack
- Built-in webcam, 2.1-MP with dual microphone array
- 23.2 mm thick, 371 mm wide, 249 mm deep
- 3.79 kg

Charot-ing elegance

SM Department store has always been known for fashion finds at reasonable prices. Inspired by Chanel's classic look, this tweed jacket, paired with classic basic shirt, jeans and statement pumps, will make one stand out.

TWEED jacket, Blazers et Mois; basic white top, Bedbound; skinny pants, Levi's; leopard sandals, Figlutorina from Shokiss

CHIC basic top and skirt pants, Levi's; silver accessories, Mi Scrity Jacket, Accessories, Pinkoko

Comfy

They weren't known many years ago but sneakers are in and they look

PRINTED dress, Pure Hoodie; handbag and sunglass, Pinkoko; pink flats, Figlutorina from Shokiss

No gray area here

Levi's, the all-time true original, is all about classic style and effortless cool. Now incorporated in P-Pop hip with something as complex as ensemble of basic: play the cool impression of jeans.

Just comfortable

The '90s vibe has been a recurring trend and look. It's no thrift graphic vintage prints and tailored shorts.

GRAPHIC leopard tailored shorts in mustard, Magic leopard sandals, Figlutorina from Shokiss; silver bangle, Pinkoko

SM Southmall, reborn

The south has come a long way from sparse and boring shopping and entertainment choices, as SM Southmall bounces back into the game

By Paul Palmero, LifeOthers
and Luis Carlo San Jose

IN A NATION CONSTANTLY on the lookout for bargains and crazy for every second of quality time with family, loved ones and peers, shopping malls have become a lifestyle template. Every mall, especially in far-flung areas, is an instant hit. Malls have always been necessary inspirers: a place to chill, an odyssey to explore, and depending on locations, a spot to be seen.

Walking into SM Southmall, one can find more than the usual. True to SM Supermalls' vision of constantly revolutionizing the way we live, SM Southmall has now been reborn. Its complete overhaul comes on its 17th year—just about the age of its biggest target demographic: the teens.

It opened its doors in 1995 to cater to the shopping, dining and entertainment needs of the south.

The 68th supermall to be built by SM Prime Holdings, it needs good on its promise. It reshaped the lifestyle of the south through the years.

However, 2012 is spinning a different story. Apart from shopping, it is now also a prime destination for beauty, dining, gaming, health and fitness. It has grown its list of stores and tenants. It is also a prime spot for academic, cultural, health, entertainment and sports events.

A couple-offer entertainment spot, it was the first to bring IMAX and ice skating to the southern part of the Metro.

In many ways, SM Southmall has become an integral part of our pop culture sensibilities. Its new revisions, it succeeded in bringing a new face to southern living.

In light of this, we did our share bathing that southern chill vibe, inspired by the ever-so-popular P-pop flare.

Beyond coffee

For all its B'Wys elements, Hollys Coffee offers more than just craving brews—it provides pop culture.

The Korean invasion continues, though this time, it is no longer just in beauty and grooming products, or crunchy chicken meals, as that favorite destination for daily soaps and music that leave us wanting more. It is now in the form of fresh, inviting brews and delectable eats. But there's more—it adds a flavorful and fun pop culture experience.

The French connection

Celebrating its 100th anniversary in the Philippines and its 400th in its native country of France, Marithé + François Girbaud offers a dozen of psychedelic cuts and modern blues—French casual chic that everybody relies on it. Pop sensibilities and trends, bonsai and western cultures.

CLOTHES all from French Connection

ORANGE basic tee, Plains & Prints; boyfriend shorts, Magic; lace pink sandals, Figlutorina from Shokiss; floral necklaces, Pinkoko

Floral flare

Don't be afraid to wear roses, especially if it's in the form of this lace basic tee. Accent it with a pair of lace floral tailored shorts.

GRAPHIC shirt, shoes, jeans and bonsai necklace, all from Forever 21

Simply graphic

One can never have too much of graphic shirts, along this line, Forever 21 always have a top choice of young people.

THE LATEST LOOKS TO LOVE FROM FOREVER 21

Get off to a fresh start this season with the latest looks to love and have from Forever 21!

Fashionable fierce pieces in animal and tribal prints let you take a bold walk on the wild side. Urban sophisticate pieces are also creating fashion lines. The chic street cast? Hip, three, graphic, bold, con dresses and skirts, cool tops, and edge bottoms.

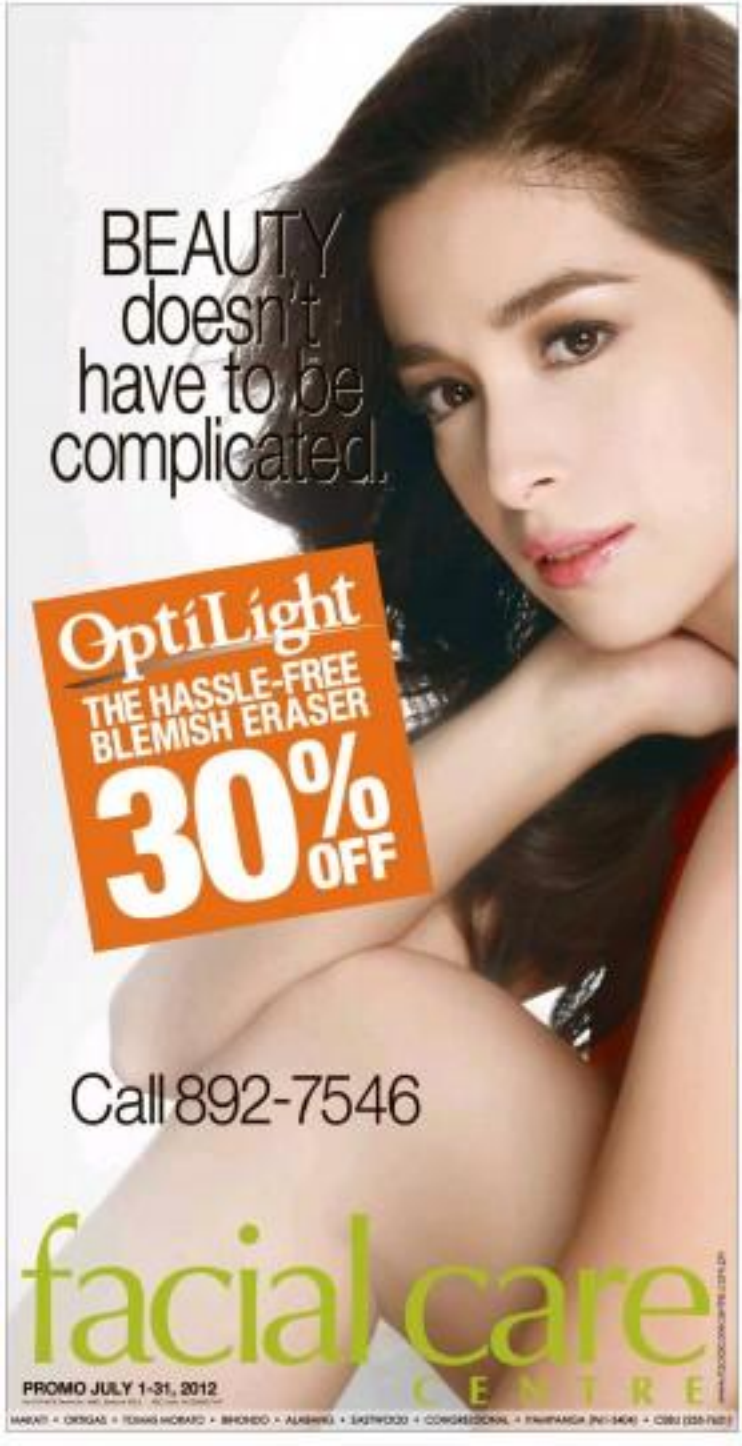
For a much soothed vibe, Forever 21 brings on the new prep. See plenty of fun and feminine separates and dresses dusted in primary colors and pretty little prints like polka dots, stripes, gingham and vintage y floral.

The stylish set gets more shopping fun and exclusive privileges at Forever 21 when they shop using Forever 21's most essential accessory: the Forever 21 MasterCard. Apply for the card by visiting the Forever 21 store or wall or BDO branches. The application form can also be downloaded at www.bdo.com.ph. They can also view or more fashion consultation as they shop with their friends with Forever 21 Gift Cards in P1,000 and P2,000 denominations. These Gift Cards are also perfect to give away as your shopping buddies on any occasion.

Forever 21 stores are located at the Second Level of SM Megamall A, Ground Floor of SM Makati in the Central Business District, Second Level at The Block of SM City North Edsa and on the Northwing of SM City Cebu. You can also follow Forever 21 on www.facebook.com/forever21.ph and www.twitter.com/forever21ph.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Skin regenerator, pore refiner, acne concealer –five new breakthrough products /E3



ERASE YOUR UNSIGHTLY BLEMISHES FOR GOOD!

What's the first thing you do when you see blemishes and dark spots on your face? You cover them up. You conceal every unsightly blemish to avoid being embarrassed and self-conscious of your less than perfect skin. No more hiding! Facial Care Centre introduces the technology that delivers spotless, supple, luminous skin – OptiLight.

What is OptiLight?

OptiLight is the most advanced version of IPL. It's a light-based treatment exclusively integrated with Optimal Pulse Technology (OPT). It delivers the best and quickest results compared to any other treatment of its kind.

What's the difference between OPT and IPL?

Because of its improved technology, OPT is painless and delivers quicker results compared to older versions of IPL. Results delivered in a single session of OptiLight are comparable to those achieved in 3 to 5 treatments with other technologies. It also makes it possible to treat darker skin types as well as pigmented lesions.

How does it work?

A precise spectrum of light is transmitted through a small handpiece gently placed over the skin, effectively and painlessly diminishing freckles, age spots, scars and facial redness. It also reduces wrinkles and melasma, and addresses collagen loss. One treatment session lasts between 20 to 30 minutes.

What results can I expect from OptiLight?

Your blemishes will be erased. Skin will be rejuvenated and perfected – brighter, clearer, even-toned, and spotless. After your program, you'll finally be able to go powder or concealer free!

"I feel more beautiful when I don't put much on my face, it's less complicated that way."

- Shalani Soledad-Romulo

New anti-aging products to lavish on your skin

HI, KELLY! I am in my 40s and I've noticed my skin has begun to look dull and rough. I feel like I've tried everything but my skin isn't here I want it to look. What products can you recommend to make my skin look young again?

While we know it is normal to start noticing changes as we get older, we don't need to get stressed and let our skin take a back to the worse. Our skin can quickly give us age away, but if we make some effort to care for it, we can actually look younger.

Youthful skin is something we all want for ourselves. If we were asked to draw the ourideal skin, we would surely come up with similar answers. Most of us would prioritize clear blemish-free skin, and would still want a smooth, even skin tone. Factors such as invisible pores, translucent skin, an extra fine texture and, of course, taut, wrinkle-free complexion will top our list of skin "wants."

It may seem like we have a long list of requirements for our skin, but admit it, if we found other ways for it to look better, we'll take them, too.

This is why we are constantly watching out for the next breakthrough product. Lucky for us, our favorite skincare brands are really pushing the envelope, formulating amazing creams and serums to revitalize and improve our skin's condition. I've listed up three of the best and latest skincare products to try.

Ilisa Lemann Tanya Shin—At 1 learned, young skin cells have many active receptors on its individual cells to receive signals sent like skin. These receptors ensure that skin continues to self-generate and metabolize, but as we age, the number of cell receptors "switch off" regeneration, and when this happens, skin begins to look dull, rough and tired.

The Ilisa Lemann research center in Tokyo found a way to prevent this by using a "Rhamnose" receptor that remains visible despite the aging process. This makes molecular mimic and communicate to cell receptors that skin cells are young and healthy. Rhamnose was inspired by the "secret" of the Xian Seoul, known for its longevity and powerful life force.

According to the skincare brand, results have been clinically proven to cause a thickening of the epidermis, which is a sure-sign skin improvement. Levels of collagen also increased, and the epidermal junction found to be better organized, with the cells more dense and supple. (Available by mail of August.)

Avon Anew Genius—After a decade of research, Avon discovered a link between a protein that promotes longevity and our skin. They called this the Youth Gene, and it found in a study to help that slowed protein which lived well into 110 years old and have had long and healthy lives.

This is what Anew Genius is based on. It contains the precise ed Youth Gene subunit is designed to help skin cells act younger.

Avon researchers claim that as we get older, we see a decline in this Youth Gene that is universal in all of us. An increase in the gene's activity boosts protein that make skin look youthful. Immediate results are promised, as the brand says a significant improvement when the cream was used nightly for four weeks. It improved discolorations by up to 126 percent and dramatically reduced the look of wrinkles.

Neutrogena Hydro Boost Water Gel—This effective water-based moisturizer claims to boost dry skin with 200 percent moisture but feels lightweight and invisible. This is the ideal everyday moisturizer, as it boasts a luxury, milky texture that doesn't really moisturize as effectively. It is also great to wear under-neath makeup, as it doesn't have that greasy feel to some moisturizers.

The manufacturer formula combines moisturizing properties of Hyaluronic Acid and Olive Extract, which boosts the skin's natural ability to hold moisture. It acts like a virtual skin reservoir that progressively releases moisture to dry skin cells for up to 72 hours, keeping skin soft and supple all day.

E-mail the author at ask.kellymiss@gmail.com.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Kelly Misa

GO FOR moisturizers with an greasy feel.

NEUTROGENA Hydro Boost Gel

AMEW Genius Treatment Cream

ANEW Optimal Days, powder

New treatments to hydrate the skin

CELETIQUE Hydration line

MURAD Pomegranate skincare products

NEUTROGENA Hydro Boost range

DRY SKIN can be dehydrated, too.

In an interview with Howard Murad of Murad Skin Care, high moisture content is the essential element of healthy skin and beauty.

If you drink 20 glasses of water a day, you will just use the bathroom 10 times or sweat out profusely. The key is retaining moisture so skin can maintain water-soluble vitamins and nutrients essential to moisturizing healthy skin.

The skincare ingredient to look out for is hyaluronic acid, which holds up to 100 times its weight in water and hold with it multi-vitamins containing vitamins A,C, E and antioxidant, green tea and Omega 3. Being prone to acne breakouts, I like alpha lipoic acid to ward of vitamin E with glutathione.

Advantages of well-hydrated skin: 1. Plumper and toning as breakouts are limited and easily treated. 3. Makes skin stronger so it heals faster less prone to scarring, allergies, rashes and sensitivities. 3. Skin is responds faster to treatments and skincare because it is healthy unlike damaged skin which slows rejects skin care as protectives co-operating damage or irritants is done. 4. Recovery whether from pimple extraction, mosquito bites and scratches...is fast. 5. Skin becomes glowing and plump. 6. Fine lines are plumped up and wrinkles become shallower.

Chapped lips

Do you have perpetually chapped lips? This is a tell tale sign of dehydrated skin. My lips were always flaking, cracking and bleeding growing up but I always had nice outbreaks, growing up and I am still that girl from Eastwood and now the Mark Bonifacio Global City, yes, oily skin can be dehydrated too so skin moisturizer products is vital to correct our low shiny tee-cast girl.

Obviously we cannot use the adult creams made for our drier skinned peers as it will cause breakouts.

It hydrates oily skin, recommended is the three-step Murad Pomegranate line, which really gives skin that post-workout glow and improves resistance to the sun.

Also recommended is the Neutrogena Hydro Boost Line (moisturizer, clear lotion/toner, essence, and a non greasy refreshing water gel cream) HYW 801.

But the most reasonably priced is the Celetique line. Check out www.celetiqueskincare.com to see prices in pesos. Click on the skin

MAKEOVER 911

Kinay Salas

The key to healthy skin is retaining moisture

sunglass test and take the quiz so they can customize the products specifically tailored for you.

Most of us will need products from different lines. Mine is a mix from the Hydration, Acne and Restorative line.

I guarantee everyone will require at least two lines. I use the Celetique Matte moisturizer SPF30 for daily in door use and their SPF15 lip balm.

Tip: If you are stuck in an air-conditioned office all day and feel the tight discomfort on skin do not slather moisturizer on top of makeup, instead, spray the Perfecting Matte Setting Mist on hands and face and you will feel instant comfort and relief without the greasy mess and smeared make-up creams and lotions leave on your skin.

E-mail the author at kinaysalas@gmail.com.

Tim Tayag—how he keeps as fresh as his jokes

FUN LOVING TIM Tayag never fails to see the lighter side of everything, be it here or abroad.

The country's pioneer of panel of stars stand-up comedy has been gathering video at venues like Punch Line in San Francisco, Comedy Stop in Chicago, Athlete's-VII. Igie in Doha and the UAE and the Atlantic Museum in Manila.

From comedy, the Ill-American has crossed over to TV with his international award TV program "On Roof" (on the Living Asia Channel) and five standup comedy series "Gotcha Manila" (on Jeepney TV).

Despite a hectic schedule, Tayag always time at home with the family.

Here are things that help him keep his laughs coming.

Body

My biggest influence is... my wife. I value her opinion when it comes to style since she's the one I really want to impress. I bought this pair of shades, which I thought made me look handsome (that's when the Chinese vendor said, "Sooo Handsome!"). I was walking around feeling so confident and Brad Pitt...ish when I ran into my wife who immediately shouted, "Take those off!"

Apparently, I bought sunglasses with women in mind.

My source of joy is... our baby daughter. She's also our entertainment. She's 2 years old but has been talking non-stop and makes us laugh. Right now she's into changing lyrics of nursery rhymes, like she'll sing "Twinkle twinkle little popcorn" She's our boss. She knows me, my wife and her older sister around.

I typically splurge on... two things—books and electronic gadgets. I am not a wealthy possession kind of guy.

I invest in property rentals and I buy physical books and Kindle books.

Mostly, I splurge more on my family. Buying nice shirts for myself is already splurging.

One thing I can't travel without is... my travel clothes. Sometimes I think, "Nah, I don't need to bring a book," then I end up getting bored, especially on the plane. Then I get to listen to the life story of the person next to me but I don't have the heart to tell him to shut up and that he has had breath.

The one electronic gadget I can't live without is... my laptop. It's where I do most of my work. I write jokes. I edit videos. I research. I watch movies. I even watch my videos it. Spy on what they're doing. I also do bank transactions and monitor my wife's shopping transactions on it.

Right now I'm addicted to... boba juice. It is my new panacea. It has more potassium than a banana or it can prevent cancer when I'm playing basketball or doing other exercises. And it's available everywhere.

Drink your fill today!

My single piece of clothing is... jeans. I'm really a laid back jeans kind of guy. With jeans on, don't have to think much. You can just put them on and match them with any shirt. Or when I finally get my abs, I can just wear jeans and nothing on top.

The one piece of clothing I **have a lot of are...** socks and boxers. I put them on my wish list last Christmas and everyone gave me three two items. So now I have 50 boxers and 130 pairs of socks. If I had to pick, it would be socks. You can never have too many fresh socks.

My signature scent is... whatever cologne someone gives me for Christmas. Right now, it's White Musk from The Body Shop. Not really sure what musk is, but it seems to "musk" any bad smell. I can't believe I just did a pun. Please don't pardon that as it will ruin the "secret" of the Xian Seoul, known for its longevity and powerful life force.

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Isabel Rocas

BACKSTAGE PASS

TIM Tayag

THE BODY Shop White Musk for Men

'Not really sure what musk is, but it seems to 'musk' any bad smell'

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E-mail the author at ask.kellymiss@gmail.com.

TIM with his wife and daughters. Left: Tim Barbershop

Scruptech has helped his entire time problem.

Top Up. Get that to-Do-list out that Tim can't get enough of. Visit Tim Barbershop and get a classic men's haircut and shave. This service will stay engaged while they wait watching basketball games on TV, the latest buzz magazines, video game challenges, a good book to read, short features on a portable device or engaging in conversation with the person right beside. Chair does are available on a first come, first served basis, so if you can't call to make a reservation with your preferred barber.

L'ORÉAL Technique Clay

Tim Barbershop is at Sebastian's Hotel along Pilot Drive, or Burgos Circle, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Open Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday to Sunday 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. Call 4249869, e-mail info@tim22.com, visit www.tim22.com.

Skin regenerator, pore refiner, acne concealer—five new breakthrough products

THE LAST FEW weeks for me have been spent testing new products. Here are the five that got me excited:

Lancome Absolue L'Extrait Regenerating Ultimate Elixir

KNOCKOUT!

Rita Francisco-Prieto

I have about 10 different brands of beauty products on my counter, and Lancome is one of them. I hardly have to beg since I get next year's service my Most I just end up getting away while about 50 percent of the stuff I don't write about because they don't impress me. But this product I do go out and buy before I run out of them are 30 Shell and 50 aromatics from Lancome.

When I got an invite to the launch of Lancome Absolue Elixir with Regenerating Ultimate Elixir, I knew it was going to be an exciting product. But it exceeded my expectations. This product was created from the Lancome Rose invented in 1935 through a crossbreeding of 2,000 species. The cells of the rose are capable of multiplying themselves and differentiating into several cell types. Every jar of Absolue Elixir is said to contain up to two million of these unique rose marine cells, making it Lancome's most powerful regenerating ingredient.

In tests, significant improvement in forehead wrinkles, under-eye wrinkles and crow's feet were noted within 15 weeks of the product's use, making the skin firmer, more elastic and radiant. At the event, the elixir was applied on the hands of my hand and I immediately felt the difference. When I got home several hours later, I had my husband feel the surface of the hand of my hands to see if he felt the difference.

I highly recommend this product to women who are fighting wrinkles and have dry skin. It may be used for day and night, depending on how much you think your skin needs. I chose to use it the same night I got mine, and the product is quite thick. I woke up so supple, radiant skin, although I found the product to be for the most mature set. So what I did was to have my moisturizer.

My mom has sensitive skin and is religious about her moisturizing regimen. She tried Lancome's Absolue Extrait Regenerating Ultimate Elixir so much she called to ask if I thought she should buy one, just in case the company was one of the product.

During the launch, the girls from Lancome were telling me how some of their patrons were not happy with just one, but bought a couple to keep or give to their friends to try in six boxes, they sold P1.6 million worth of this amazing product! So, yes, for her peace of mind, I told my mom she better buy an extra jar.

L'Occitane for Orbis

I sometimes find out about wonderful organizations or foundations through the doings I keep. One of my fave brands is L'OCCITANE, and I'm sooner not only in it support events, but come in for designs, I know is also given to the less fortunate.

I found out about the Orbis plane through Victoria Ortiz. In this world-renowned flying eye hospital which travels all over the world to give the gift of sight to thousands of people.

One hundred percent of the proceeds of a plane-shaped soap that Occitane made goes to Orbis. This soap is amazing on the skin. I love how it makes my skin look and feel. It is also made of my fave scents—verbena, lemon and grapefruit.

My sons like playing with it while I take Bella's bath, which makes bath time extra fun. When I told my four-year-old that this plane helps people who have eye problems, he said it was his favorite plane. I bought two more bars, because there is such a great cause behind it. Also, they're too cute to take a part of.

Diptyque's new bottle

Diptyque scents are so refreshing! Its candles, home scents and perfumes all make for great gifts in scenes and give.

I was so happy when I got one of my fave scents, L'Ombre dans l'Eau, in its new bottle. I'm actually excited to finish some of my other Diptyque scents so I can shop for new ones in their new packaging. I really like how the oval shape stands out and is easy to spot when I'm in a rush.

I'm worried that most of the scents I use, like Philosophy's Amazing Grace and Bora Kapoor, is almost the same packaging. So this new bottle would tell for sure if you're looking for a new fresh scent for yourself or your loved one, the Diptyque counter at Rustan's is another one to check out.

Murad Acne Treatment Concealer

Skin are part of growing up. I remember when I was still in school, girls with zits would try to conceal them. But that only made the problem worse.

Luckily, Murad has come up with a concealer designed to hide one's pimples. I tried it on my skin and I do like its consistency (I particularly like that the color is on the yellowish side, which is perfect for brightening dark spots. Since I don't have a zit, I tried it on my under eye, and it was amazing. For those who are prone to zits, I like the concealer to use. It's also said to prevent breakouts.

Clinique Pore Refining Solution

"Wherever I look in the mirror, I feel my pores looking back at me." That's what I would always tell the derms, who would then say pores are a part of aging. So when I chanced upon Clinique's pore refining solution, I was more than willing to try it out. Also, I am attracted to the word "serum," so that's what I automatically picked up.

I am wearing my third week of using this product and I love it. I can hardly see my pores, which I consider a major win. Before, my skin looks smooth, like it just got ironed. I am so happy with this product, and I highly recommend it!

LANCOME regenerating ultimate elixir

L'OCCITANE

CLINIQUE Pore Refining Solutions

DIPTYQUE

MURAD Acne Treatment Concealer

MAC debuts new collections in July

ROCK STARS, sailors and colorful beings are the inspirations of premier makeup brand MAC's latest collections.

India rock and punk singer-songwriter Beth Ditto is the muse of a collection named after her and her no-your-face image, Frances Boots Lush Velvet is a direct tribute to the Shade & Illuminate Shadow Liner, a dual-ended pairing of eyeshadow and gunmetal liner for achieving a perfect smoky eye. MAC's Beth Ditto collection costs the spotlight on you.

MAC's Heavenly Creatures color collection, meanwhile, evokes a seaworthy celestial effect on skin with its take-minerals-by-the-sea theming other makeup must-haves.

Finally, MAC's Hi-fashion collection boasts the whole wide palette of beauty kit essentials each offering bewitching-as-ever colors.

MAC's Beth Ditto collection

Bear blackheads with Laneige

Laneige raises unsightly blackheads to new ways. Laneige Blackhead Melting Gel contains hyaluronic acid, which dissolves dead skin cells and unclogs pores. Meanwhile, Laneige Blackhead Pore Strip contains kaolin powder, a natural ingredient that effectively absorbs sebum.

Laneige is at Podium, Shangri-La Plaza; SM Mall of Asia, Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Manila.

Beauty Bar launches theBalm Skin Care

Beauty Bar's famous theBalm brand helps you achieve soft, supple skin with products named appropriately after various's healthful finds. Stock up on skin savers like Cucumber Oil Free Moisturizer, Cranberry Invigorating Eye Cream, Dandelion Mint Brightening Moisturizer, Lemon Pomegranate Restorative Facial Serum, White Tea Rose Face Cleanser, and Vanilla Oil Absorbing Face Moisturizer, and watch your face glow.

Thalbalm Skin Care collection is available at select Beauty Bar stores.

Lily Cole Body Shop line

The Body Shop Lily Cole collection is now available. Lily Cole is an actor and model known for her fair-trade and sustainability advocacies. The line includes Mini Hi Shine lip treatment and gloss, Pearl Brilliance Primer with light diffusing pearls, Mini Brush Set made of 100-percent cruelty-free fibers, Liquid Eyeliner in dramatic velvet, Puff Me Radiance for a luminescent finish, Shimmer Cubes eyeshadow set, Lip and Cheek Duster cream in pink and coral.

THE BODY Shop Lily Cole Collection

Lifestyle and art exhibit open today at Rockwell

THE LIFESTYLE EXHIBIT "Perspectives" by Ongpin d'Armeli is on July 13, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., at One Rockwell East Function Room.

Some of the brands, designers and collaborators are Dr. Gabriel Lim and Andrea Blanche, Gabriel Maciel, Shanaana Ng and Evelyn Cruz, Natalya Lagdameo, Erika Casupanan, Reyes for Rayuno, Nicolito Bea Ledesma and Rio Principe, Jay Santos Cuevas, Anthony Bijasa, Dawn Dizon and Mark Commuda for 13 Lucky Monkeys, Bhutlevine Bijasa, Mavis Custodio, Grace Guinevere Nase, Rose Anne Vallad, Nicole Wheelwright and Malou Bonnet.

Alongside the works of the talented designers, there will also be an art show by 8x8 Informal featuring visual artists John Santos, Marina Cruz, Sandra Reyes-Ghaller and others.

Kids Arts auditions

Kids Arts Philippines is looking for kids ages 7–11 who are willing to learn acting, singing and dancing for theater. The auditions will be on July 14, 1 p.m.–5 p.m., at Gateway Art Studio, Unit 200, 2/F Gateway Factory Center, Gateway Complex, corner St., Barangay Pinatal Pilar, Makati City (behind Robinsons Makati, in front of PNB Stations). Audition is free. Requirements: any English song from Broadway or Walt Disney musicals with written lyric copy), one-minute dance routine of any style, one-minute English monologue, bring the following—attire/costume, photocopy of birth certificate, photocopy of current report card (if available), half-body photo.

The successful applicants will become members of The Camp Art Kid Actors Company, receive a full-orchestra training on musical theater every Saturday, and an opportunity to perform events. They will also be enrolled in the cast of "Rented & Broke" children's musical.

E-mail artskidsmail@yahoo.com.ph.

Go paperless and win big prizes

Sun pompadi offers paperless billing. Enrolled with Sun online billing to receive your monthly billing statements via e-mail. Unwithdrawn prize into the chance to win cash any one Nintendo 3DS handheld, Tablet (8GB) handheld, 12 Sony DVD players and four Acer Aspire One D260 netbooks. Promo runs until Aug. 31. A flagship computer store in Glorietta 2 mall, Makati City, will be the venue for the raffle draw on Sept. 7. Visit www.sunbroadband.com.ph.

Conference on sugar industry

The Laura Vicuña Foundation Inc., with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, will hold Children of the Canefields: A National Conference for the Protection and Development of Children in the Sugar Industry on June 12–13. More than a hundred key players in the sugar industry, government, civil society groups, both sectoral participants, media, sugar farm workers and child-right advocates will attend the two-day activity, seeks to create a socially responsible sugar industry.

Keynote speaker will be Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo. Other speakers: Sugar Regulatory Administrator Regina Bautista-Ramos; Governor Soledad de Jesus; National Labor Organization Jaime Gomez; Edith Villanueva, Panciano Lagaderos Farm Department of Labor and Employment; and Windy Brigolo of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The Laura Vicuña Foundation was awarded third prize at the 2006 Asia Pacific MDG Awards at the Asian Civilizations Museum in Singapore in 2006.

Happiest Pinoy search

The nationwide Search for the Happiest Pinoy has been extended until July 31. A flagship campaign of Coca-Cola Philippines' Live Positively, it aims to find and recognize the country's most optimistic and passionate Filipinos who lead a good-natured demeanor while overcoming life's challenges.

To join, submit a nomination for the search. Filipinos enabled aged 18 and above, who has a positive impact in people's lives. The entry should depict the nominee's lifestyle and exemplary traits and show how the nominee has demonstrated resilience and inner strength in times of stress.

Ten finalists will be chosen. Winner will receive P250,000, plus free. Awarding will be on September.

Judges are Educators Secretary Armin Luistro; 2000 CNN Hero of the Year Efren Peñaflorida; Happiest Pinoy 2010 winner Winston Mendoza, Brahms Navarro Foundation Philippines president Leticia Ramos-Shahani, Ramon Magsaysay Awardee Gawad Kalinga founder Antolin Oposa; and CEO Ma. Carmenseta Abella. LSGLP names VP Dr. Bernardo Villegas and PJ Lhuillier Inc. chief administrative officer Jose Miguel Jimenez.

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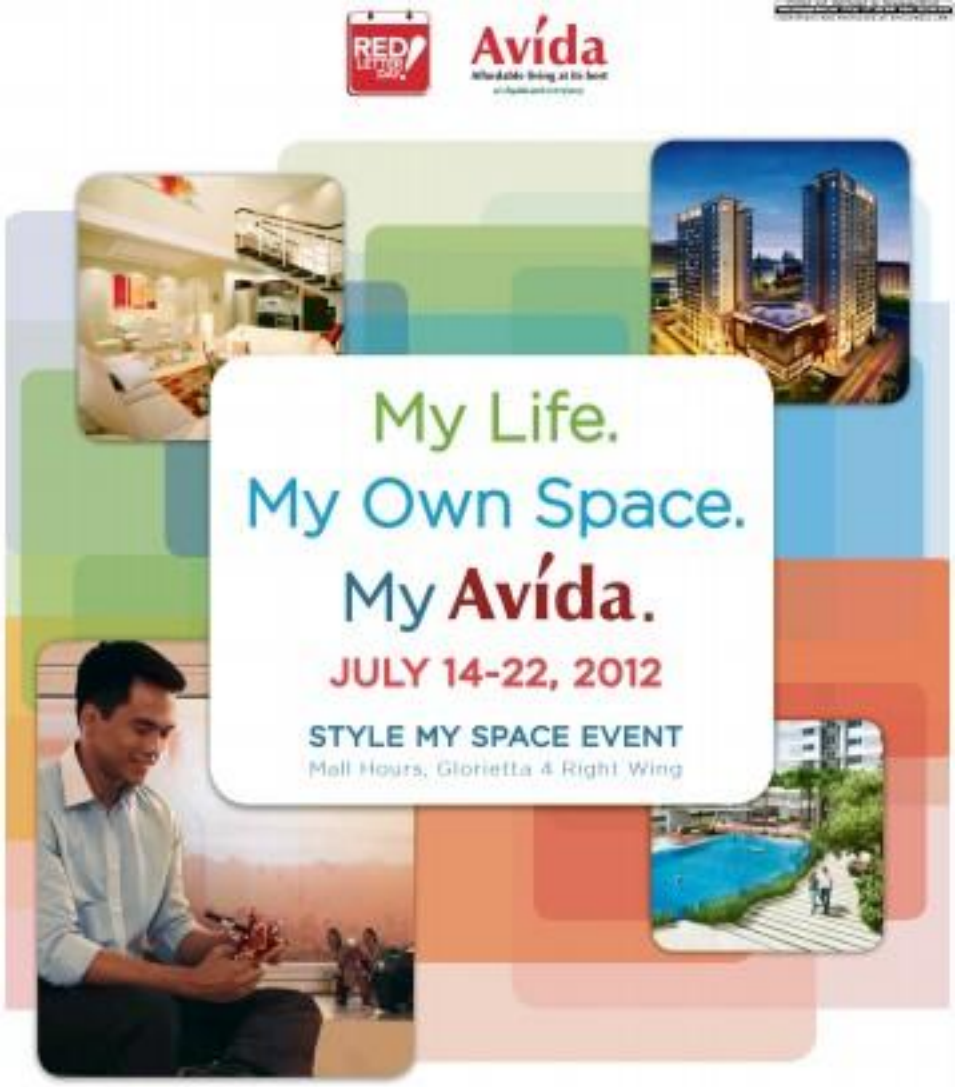

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LIFESTYLE

The fashion that's a-changing–from my *perch at Brent*

On a no-uniform day, clothes become various forms of self-expression

BRIGHT students in fun casuals, with bright-colored bags for accessories

By Mikaela Ibañez
Correspondent, Brent International School Manila

TEENAGE fashion has definitely evolved the past years, along with society. It's about teenagers expressing themselves, and in doing so, getting fad or good criticism.

Going on Brent is a traditional. School Manila has opened the realm of fashion and style to me, and I now have my own way of "expressing" myself through the clothes I choose to wear.

Teenagers in this society evidently have a broader array of expressing themselves. This could be due to the freedom they have earned over the years, or plain rebellion against such repression by mothers' lists.

Though Brent has implemented the rule of wearing uniforms, we can still get a glimpse of teenagers' pervasive outside campus.

Girl fashion at Brent or any other international school can be categorized in either classy and elegant, dark and mysterious, bright and bubbly (neon), or showing ample skin.

Because it is an international school, the embrace mixed, and the styles can morph into something they thought they'd never wear.

Girls could be pressured into wearing clothes they wouldn't otherwise never be allowed to wear by someone else parents, as an act of rebellion, peer pressure is extremely pungent. They wear what their peers wear just to "fit in" and look fashionable, or so they think.

Their identity is created because of the ideas and style they steal from others.

Teenage girls also wear what they wear due to high or low self-confidence. For example, a very curvy girl may want to wear short shorts with a tight top to show off her appropriately gorgeous body. Others may like wearing loose and baggy clothes to hide their bodies. What these girls wear often reflects their self-esteem.

I'm expressing my feelings about fashion to our modern society. It's based on a portion of Lady Gaga, and I pretend to have an idea of her talents. I imagine that she is from the future, and I am from the middle past. Some of the lines I wrote:

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COLORFUL T-shirts in (Mark Nicolas (left) and Enrique Dizon).

OFF-SHOULDER dress-for-less tshirts-and-grey top worn with white shorts, plus a Nikon camera, make for the perfect tourist outfit.

Join the water-resistant short with gym shorts and slippers, topped off with sunglasses.

MINI-DRESS in neon colors on Samantha Pobre.

The fashion that's a-changing –from my *perch at Brent*

From page F1

Come young ones, listen to what I must say:
Is this laughably parental chat paints a picture of the sassy days
That constitute quite a routine of a teen
Illustrates the evolving concept I love
How things and ideas seem mutating
That, in fact, it would not be surprising
To think a subtle eyebrow arched under wealth all that hair,
Which sports a ribbon that miraculously wears,
What if the 16 stars of the world to be
Are filled with such a trend?
What if society becomes a mentor only
That we can no longer bend?
What if Utopia may never be found?
What if our frivolity is remembered
And not reason and appreciation's to be crowned?

If the 16 stars of our skies
Are to be thrown off by women
Sporting a ribbon made of hair
Looking like rats ends of a broom put together,
Surely's a lost. Where is the sophistication,
Elegance in such a fashion?
Surely not even you
Would be such a conscious fashionist!
Surely not even you
Would succumb to madness?
Surely not even you
Would be devoid of reasonableness?

VINTAGE fashion as a source of inspiration

MIKAELLA Evangelista in white t-lily mini-skirt with white t-shirt

OH DARLING Coconut, floral sweetheart shirt with tucked-in-pants, vanilla-colored heels and black gladiator shoes.

BENNY Balgomin in top hat and character shirt

Different kinds of shorts

Three days I've noticed that many teenage girls enjoy wearing pedos tucked into different kinds of shorts, with a belt as necessary. I have worn this only once because I do not like going with what is common.

Other girls wear micro-mini shorts with a tight and revealing top, some off-shoulder shirts of bright neon colors with skirts, jeans, or shorts, dark tight jeans with a nice top, sweaters, or denims and jumpers.

Many go with the latest trend and see, themselves, called hipsters. These hipsters usually wear skimpy jeans with a plain top and shades (shades or a pretty floral print mini dress with boots.

What I enjoy wearing are clothes that are comfortable and cute. For example, I adore sweaters, shorts, off-shoulder tops, dresses and skirts. The theme I like is sort of vintage and chic. Seeing how these days at Brent, when students are allowed to wear what they like, with the exception of short shorts, revealing tops and shirts with profanity printed on them, many of the girls come in jeans and very shirts.

Others wear dresses or anything dark in color. Some of the more rebellious girls come in short shorts, and just hide from the authorities. I admit to doing this once, and it was not a pleasant or comfortable experience, as I always had to be on the lookout so as not to get in trouble. Brent is pedantic in this sense because it wants its students to look as appropriate as possible, which is very understandable.

Where they shop

So, where do those teenage girls shop? Some friends of mine enjoy shopping in Top shop at Rockwell, Alabang Town Center or Greenbelt 5. Topshop has fun, quirky pieces and fun "in" things to wear to parties or just plain "hangouts" with friends.

Forever 21 is another store where most of my friends shop because of its neat and colorful clothes. I prefer shopping at Forever 21 and Zara because they have a wider variety.

The accessories of these girls vary so well. Shoes, for example, say a lot about a person's character. Some girls enjoy wearing Converse high tops, and Toms, those sporty-looking sneakers, in different colors. They give girls that punk-rock look.

Others enjoy sandals and gladiators, still others like classic ballet flats, or they just wear heels and boots. I like wearing baby-doll ballet shoes because they are comfortable and I find them very chic.

Piercings

Another trend girls sport are piercings. Piercings in places other than your ears when you are around 13 or 14 look very unclean and unsophisticated. Piercings give girls that tough vibe, because they are able to take the pain.

Some do it solely to look cool.

Ideal piercing is the most common among those young women because they think it would make them look more desirable.

Well, piercings some tattoos. Girls get tattoos for the same reason they get piercings. There is an exception, though; most people think getting a tattoo is a status symbol. The tattoos appearance a rough or happy time in their lives that they would want to remember. A picture is not enough; the picture or idea you want remembered must be embedded on the body so as to have it planted in the soul, as well.

Jewelry is also a main accessory for girls. Time was, when jewelry was usually how girls showed off their wealth. Today however, it seems it's not the value of the item that matters but the quantity; jewelry is piled on over arms, necks and ankles. Where is the simplicity and elegance in such a style?

Wild colors

Also, girls enjoy transforming their beautiful natural hair with wild colors. When I got back to Brent from Christmas vacation, the first thing I observed was the hair. Many had hair stained at the tips with red, pink or blue. This was not taken lightly, as it was not acceptable school-wise.

Lastly—makeup. The concept has somewhat kept almost the same. Makeup is supposed to make your features stand out while looking natural in the process. Many girls abuse this available rule and go overboard, to the point where they cannot go anywhere without it. Makeup has made these girls feel like they're not good enough without it.

Guys, on the other hand, those young women drive up for, have mostly remained simple in their fashion. Boy fashion has not changed greatly over the years, with only a few minor alterations here and there.

Boys don't care

Unlike girls, boys do not change their style just because of the influence of their peers. Frankly, they do not care, neither do they have the energy to do so.

The sporty teenage boy do not enjoy shopping at all, and just throw on effortlessly what they like to wear. The fashion of those boys can fall under sporty, classic or rock-y look. Most of them are happy sporting just a shirt and jeans.

What I've noticed about the fashion of some boys is that they like to wear their pants fairly low at the hips. They think it gives them that gangster look. They do not care much for accessories, maybe only for piercings and tattoos.

Boys usually do not express themselves through clothing, but rather through music and the like. Perhaps only the rockers they wear would show how they would be feeling.

The regular look is somewhat either for appealing look. Boys I've seen wear dark shirts with dark ripped jeans, with sunglasses to top the look off. The classic look is just khaki or white shorts with a collared shirt. The rich boy look is the Lacoste outfit, a plaid shirt with white shorts, or vice versa.

The boys who actually do care may like wearing more flashy clothes with loud colors.

Grandparents

As for accessories, many wear hats to go with their outfits. Sandals, dress shoes and sneakers are the most worn footwear. Boys, just like the girls, enjoy dyeing their hair and acquiring tattoos and piercings for the same reasons girls would.

In my interview with my grandparents the other day, several differences in teenage fashion came up. For the young women back in their day in the '50s and '70s, my grandparents said, the fashion remained of petticoats, bobby socks, ballroom skirts, sleeveless shirts and shoes that rose to the knees or below the knees.

Women had small waists and rarely wore high heel shoes. They wore flatties, and only low had the nerve to get tattoos and piercings. Anything above the knees would have been considered taboo and disrespectful.

Also, girls in those days would not dare expound their breasts or bra lines as frequently. Dresses with high necklines were worn with boxers or short pants.

The period skirts were not ripped, but neatly cut and cropped at the knees. Headbands, necklaces and clip-on jewelry pieces were worn. Sweaters were worn with colorful pants.

Patterns on that page show a typical outfit for a school day. One is a sketch of two girls back to the '50s. The first, in skirt, has a tiny waist and short hair. She is in white buttons down polo dressed at the neck. The polo is tucked into a plaid skirt that falls at the knees, a very appropriate schoolgirl look.

Her hair is in a dark bronze hue, with a black bow. She wears no jewelry and her shoes are ballet flats.

The second girl is in a red dress over a pearl-sweater shirt with three-fourths sleeves. The bow on her chest blends her neckline for red dress, and her shoes are mary-janes. She is also wearing white gloves and holding a book—another perfect schoolgirl outfit.

OFF-SHOULDER Black-cotton top from Zara, paired with white shorts from Forever 21, on Bratista

FLORAL dress with denim vest, white bag and pink sneakers—an ensemble that Kaye Hidalgo pulls off

CUTE in cap sleeve dress

School-appropriate

Another picture shows girls in the '60s. Their hair is longer than the shoulder) version, but also has accessories such as bows.

The outfits are also very school-appropriate, the mustard-colored shirt on the first young woman doesn't go above the knees.

Just like the young women in pedo in the first picture, this girl is in a long sleeve patterned shirt tucked into her skirt. The second girl is in all red, from striped sweater to pants and bow.

The newer picture of my wife's friend was taken at Xian over a year ago. It differs greatly from the '50s picture in the fact that most of the shirts shorts and heels. The girl is in white sweater, three denim shorts that are slightly faded and ripped, while I'm in white-dyed shorts.

From '60s skirts that skim the knees to today's short shorts and heels—our world is changing, especially in fashion. The other picture with my three friends was taken in Tagaytay a few months ago. Notice how both my friends are holding their cell phones to capture the fun moment. The friend in the middle is in yellow short shorts, gold sandals and striped sweater—a typical mall outfit.

I am in a white dress with gold ballet flats, while my other friend is in heels, big bellows, tape shorts and patterned shirt. Our hairstyles are fairly boring. Each of us also carries a hair tie we wear on our wrists as it's handy.

There's also a picture of my grandmother at a party in 1963. The dress is slightly below the knees and is a striking white. Young women then dressed this way for parties or dances. The dress slightly hangs on the shoulders of my grandmother very elegantly.

Unlike the white dress of my grandmother, today's party dresses are usually black, red, gray, blue or white. These dresses are usually very revealing and short. These dresses rarely go below the knee, always thigh high.

My grandfather told me that style and fashion for boys has not changed much the past 20 to 40 years.

There's a picture of my grandfather and his friends. The boys wear similar shirt or pairs, pants and belt. Their pants are belted at the waists and their collars stick out.

According to my grandfather, teenage boys in the '60s usually wear bell-bottom pants and closed printed shirts.

Pictures of Justin Bieber show today's fashion—colored shirt underneath an open polo with pants tucked into big sneakers. Beanies could also be worn, and a backpack as well. Young men's fashion has changed only slightly; it has become louder and bolder, in terms of color.

A Daily Tee article argues that fashion has lost its creativity, especially in the last 20 years, despite advances in technology. It is truly an eyesore, but, to some extent, maybe this is a blessing in disguise.

If fashion were to evolve further, maybe the powers of the world would be filled with monstrous designs and robes, designs like those in the Capitol, which Suzanne Collins created for "The Hunger Games."

This could be an opportunity for the 16 spikes to rise and create some gorgeous new designs to throw the world. This could be the opportunity a changing world and its creatures are waiting for—brilliance that would sway the dress of the earth.

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

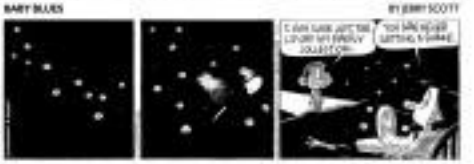
A. UPIN BY ED ARCIA

PUGAD BABOY BY PAL LARGA

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVE MOTS BY ELIZABETH HOWARD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



KUKO NG KUKO BY PANKA ABRERA SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER TULDOK BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CORNEZ

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Don't be afraid to express your feelings to your loved one. Showing affection will make your relationship stronger. Avoid unnecessary arguments with your friends. Be careful when driving.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be more open to your friends. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. Be careful when dealing with money matters. Avoid lending money to friends.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't be afraid to express your feelings to your loved one. Showing affection will make your relationship stronger. Avoid unnecessary arguments with your friends. Be careful when driving.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You have too many irons in the fire. Focus on one thing at a time. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. Be careful when dealing with money matters. Avoid lending money to friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Although this is a good day to catch up on personal matters, it's not a good day to make important decisions. Don't be afraid to express your feelings to your loved one. Showing affection will make your relationship stronger. Avoid unnecessary arguments with your friends. Be careful when driving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make the most of today, because tomorrow is a fantastic day! Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. Be careful when dealing with money matters. Avoid lending money to friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't be afraid to express your feelings to your loved one. Showing affection will make your relationship stronger. Avoid unnecessary arguments with your friends. Be careful when driving.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't be afraid to express your feelings to your loved one. Showing affection will make your relationship stronger. Avoid unnecessary arguments with your friends. Be careful when driving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) What a wonderful, creative day! You're full of bright, original ideas. Because you feel free outside the box. Easy romance, sports and playful times with kids.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Make the most of today, because tomorrow is a fantastic day! Don't be afraid to express your feelings to your loved one. Showing affection will make your relationship stronger. Avoid unnecessary arguments with your friends. Be careful when driving.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is a lively, playful day. Love, social matters, important decisions or signing important papers. Consult something or meeting to pleasure with bright ideas.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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7								6
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2								4
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Manila's 'global shapers' keep their momentum

STORYTELLING in the new library

ANNA Ogosa, Pie Alvarez and Lynn Pinugu-os Dano

Youth leaders show what they learned at the World Economic Forum last January, and what they did upon their return

By Victoria Herrera
2BU Contributor

WHAT HAPPENS when you bring a group of young dynamic and driven youth leaders together? No doubt, an inspiring energy is created in the air. At the World Economic Forum held in Davos last January there Philippine representatives, Lynn-Lynn Pinugu, Anna Ogosa and Pie Alvarez...had the honor of bridging our country with the rest of the world in a collaborative and enriching event.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) aims to hold discussions on global issues and how to solve them. By inviting a diverse roster of "global shapers" to come together, the event creates a supportive environment for a dialogue of understanding among people.

Since the event itself, Lynn, Anna and Pie have been on a spin tag here, creating their own projects to further development in the Philippines. One of them is partnering Global Shapers Community (consisting of 13 youth leaders in Manila) with Library Beyond Borders to help Program (LBP) and other individuals and governments to build 200 libraries in the Philippines. Last May 21, they opened the very first pediatric library in Philippine Heart Center.

2BU talks to these three powerful women about their trip to Davos, their plans, and what we can do to help. For anyone looking to make a difference in their community, take some tips from these role models.

Lynn Pinugu
Age: 28
Organization: Shiva Amiga Academy

Tell us about yourself and your career.

My personal mission is to make quality education accessible to all, no matter their socioeconomic background. As a step toward this vision, I co-founded Shiva Amiga Academy, a school that seeks to provide high-quality education to underprivileged children.

What new breakthrough ideas and lessons did you pick up during the trip?

We won't be able to fully understand and resolve a problem if we only look at one side of the equation, so you need the perspective of others, especially those who might not share your views. For an effective dialogue to take place, it requires a great deal of humility and open-mindedness from everyone involved. The realization that one cannot have all the answers is crucial for a person to be able to genuinely listen and collaborate with other people.

What tips can you give to someone who wants to follow in your footsteps?

Open your eyes to the challenges in your surroundings and make a conscious effort to be part of the solution instead of contributing to the problem.

Anna Ogosa
Age: 24
Organization: Save Philippine Seas

Tell us about yourself and your career.

Owen, founder of Save Philippine Seas, a movement to preserve the world's richest marine life by harnessing the power of social media and lobbying for the strict enforcement of environmental laws.

What are some of the biggest challenges you've encountered in your line of work?

There have been many obstacles: lack of funds, lack of support from people who are influential, lack of initiative from the general public. When I am asked what the most alarming environmental issue is, I say, "Apathy." The world will heal on its own, the way it has after it survived a meteor crash and the ice age. It's the people that need changing, not to touch the climate. Our minds, our attitudes and our practices need to improve if we want the environment to.

What tips can you give to someone who wants to follow in your footsteps?

Age is not an excuse to be complacent and lazy. Every action is a choice or fail. It's not about being the smartest or most talented, but having the courage to do something. The greatest change makers I know are also the biggest troublemakers/dreamers.

Pie Alvarez
Age: 24
Organization: Local government unit—San Vicente, Palawan

Tell us about yourself and your career.

I am the municipal mayor of San Vicente, Palawan. It is my role and responsibility to serve the residents of San Vicente and provide them with quality basic needs and services.

What new breakthrough ideas and lessons did you pick up during the trip?

Technology was a big part of Davos this year. Being mayor of a remote island town makes me want to use technology to connect people together, as well as collaborating on ideas to solve problems. At the same time I need to protect the residents of San Vicente from threats that might arise from the advent of technology; i.e. mass text-messaging which threaten the locals with false disasters scare-tactics.

Some people might criticize the event as being "all talk and no action." What do you say immediately take upon return to your home country?

I don't think that is true at all. You need to have dialogue and an exchange of ideas first before initiating any project or program. I reminded Celebrity Concept Bath to San Vicente and I conceptualized with Ates, Lynn and the other Manila Shapers a learning center-community library that will act as an after-school facility for children, training and "workshop" space for unemployed residents and heritage center that will promote culture and the arts.

What tips can you give to someone who wants to follow in your footsteps?

Don't be afraid to be different and challenge the norm. Start small and do it right every step of the way versus overdoing it. Know yourself (less before trying to help others). Be open to learning and asking for help and, lastly, don't be afraid to make mistakes!

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Bra-chacha, Bra-llelujah, Bra-llywood Hills–'wink-wink' names, but they work

SPANX introduces the torso-smoothing camisole and Booty Booster with fanny pads, which gives a fuller and more rounded bottom.

By Margo C. Enriquez
Lifestyle Editor

AT THE GOLDEN Globes, comedian Steve Carell declared he had no unsightly bulges and hinted at wearing an exceptional product.

TV host Oprah Winfrey also talked about the importance of a well-fitting bra and a Bali-management undercover that gave a quick fix.

On the Oscar red carpet, Gwyneth Paltrow amazed us how the foundation garment made her post-baby body look stylishly underneath a figure-skimming gown.

These celebrities have been raving over Spanx, the spikes and Lycra undergarment brand that has gotten women...and men—excited again about an item fit that works for their figure concerns.

Sofnet Magazine wrote about how Spanx's unique marketing moved its products, chiefly by labeling the items with "cutesy, wink-wink names."

Take the new collection, dubbed "the Spanx thin-sations." Bra-chacha is designed for an active wearer. "This strapless bra steps out. It will not ride and it stylishly adheres to the back," said Stephanie Mailloux, a spokesperson from the International Spanx team, who launched it at a tea party hosted by Bustiers, the exclusive distributor in the country.

"Sin jog steps. No need to pull up strapless bras. It looks great underneath a strapless or asymmetrical dress and you can dance the night away."

For daily wear, the Bra-Llelujah! has hosiery yarns at the back to flatten the back fats. "The hosiery straps don't dig into the skin," added Mailloux. "You step in, pull up and it will make you feel and look great."

The profile-enhancing Bra-llywood Hills Side-Slimming bra provides cups that make the breasts look taut and perky.

The panties not only provide a seamless finish, but they also prevent wedgies.

Must-have

Mailloux also recommended another must-have: the Trust Your Thinstincts. Our first seamless smoothing tank made with a medium compression fabric that flatters the curves. Ride of the ankle ghosting the chest.

The Double Trouble bodysuit firms up the love handles and provides double compression that evens out the lower abdomen so no pooch. "It can even be worn as a bikini because you feel cooled in," said Mailloux.

MA-CHACHA 12

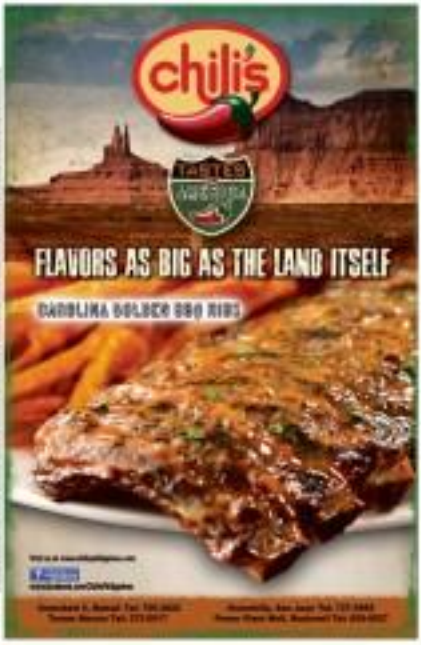

PHOTO BY Kapuso Artists and former secretary to many past Spanish ambassadors, Pilar Aldanese

NAMES Rocco E., Francisco Jose Elizalde

MICHELLE Sanchez and husband Sam Pizzarelli

CRISTINA Carlomir Ponce Enrile and husband, Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile

CONNIE Gonzalez and husband Magglo Antonio

TITO Yuchengco and wife Helen Mehmet Yuchengco

CHANCELLOR of the Embassy of Spain Agius Chatis, Commercial Office of the Embassy of Spain's Claudio Gonzalez, Yasmino Perez

AMBASSADOR of Spain to the Philippines Jorge Dezcallar and wife Rosa Rubios de Dezcallar with Queen Sofia of Spain (center), as they welcome the 500 guests to the cocktail reception

JUNTION Ronan, Marivic Isaac Georgina Padilla de Mac-Crohon

EDUARDO Vaca, Rosa Rubios de Dezcallar, Cynthia Carrion, Concepcion Arsenia Ledon

HE. HERNANDO Rodriguez Agosa Ocana, Chancellor of the Embassy of Spain Fr. Julian Pastora

Queen Sofia wins Filipinos by her regal bearing, grace and character

QUEEN Sofia welcoming Ariana Rocca, in a wheelchair, while the Spanish Ambassador looks on

SHE came, she saw and conquered our hearts. We refer to Her Majesty Reina Sofia de España who captivated our admiration for her simplicity and charm, while keeping her regal bearing, during her recent state visit, dubbings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arnaiz

Photos by Alex Vinz Magpoc
powered by PHOTO MAC CORPS

Apart an elegant and relaxed state dinner given by President Aquino at Malacañang, Reina Sofia toured different places around Manila, such as Intramuros, the National Library, University of Santo Tomas where she had an early 9 a.m. breakfast, and the National Museum of the Philippines, where Sec. Loren Legarda was her hostess and guide.

A day or two before, she made a trip to Albay province, visiting Ligao City Carmelig School and Renaissance Center, Daraga Memorial Hospital and the Academy of Climate Change in Legazpi City.

In Zamboanga City Reina Sofia inspected projects funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation.

Touring the Queen was dashing Spanish ambassador Jorge Dezcallar and Rosa Rubios de Dezcallar.

For a breather, the ambassador gave her a cocktail reception with hosts Ian Alson at the ambassador's residence, where she met 100 chosen invitees from the local Spanish community, dubbings.

We had to be there promptly before 6:30 p.m., and promptly, at 7 p.m., Her Majesty made her entrance amid thunderous applause of the guests. Together with Ambassador Dezcallar, she then welcomed us at the reception line, taking some seconds to chat with everyone.

The night that resident my heart was when she left the reception line for a second, and bent low to chat with Ambassador, who was in a wheelchair.

Reina Sofia also had a longish chat in Spanish with regal looking Cristina Carlomir Ponce Enrile and Madrid-based Georgina Padilla Cobel Vda. de Mac-Crohon, and retired columnist Rosalinda Orosa, mayor of Ivisan.

The reception was a success due to the work of Pilar Aldanese, former secretary to several Spanish envoys, and equally husband-loving Stella Segota, secretary to the ambassador.

Rain, wind and storm didn't stop the invitees from scrambling in the open salon and covered patio of the ambassador's residence, while rubbing in the delectable croquettes direct from the ambassador's kitchen, nor attacked the empanadas till I was stuffed with it. Yummy.

Since the queen is a vegetarian who eats seafood once in a while, menu for the royal evening were mushroom croquettes, parmesan croquettes, mini tortillas with caramelized onions and sherry, basil and spinach tempura, and vegetable sticks with blue cheese and aioy with vinegar sauce.

For non-vegans there were shrimp and lumpiang singkara, different kinds of sushi and soft-shell crab with sauce and sour sauce, all drowned with the endless flow of wine, beer, juices and soft drinks.

His Majesty had so much fun that the right five-day schedule, she even stayed longer than we all expected in the reception.

As the royal host royal was, Queen Sofia totally charmed and entranced all those she had met, leaving a lasting impression among us of a lady who's truly worthy to lineage, grace and charisma.

Viva La Reina Sofia! Viva La España!

Loren welcomes UN VIP

Hard-working Sen. Loren Legarda welcomed Margareta Wahlstrom, the special representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), who was in the Philippines for various conferences on enhancement of the Philippines' DRR capabilities, especially in light of Typhoon "Sendong."

Legarda, appointed UN Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for Asia and the Pacific, hosted the meeting so that Wahlstrom could meet government officials and local peoples from various sectors, industry and the academe, dubbings.

"We welcome Margareta Wahlstrom," Sen. Loren Legarda said. "The world is seeing more and more disasters that are increasingly costly in terms of lives and livelihood. We urge for enhanced work on our disaster prevention initiatives as we support efforts to build back better in communities devastated by disasters. The government needs to place more investments on pre-disaster activities and engage the private sector in building a disaster-resilient society by the risks posed by disasters to our development and economic growth. A significant step is to adopt a risk-financing strategy that would prevent post-disaster efforts from competing for resources originally intended for development."

Legarda chatted with businessmen on how companies should be encouraged to come up with business continuity plans that would prepare them to face disasters and get back on their feet after-wards, dubbings.

If that few days' visit didn't keep Senator Legarda busy enough, she also personally made all the arrangements and personally escorted Reina Sofia during the latter's visit to several indigenous Filipino communities in the north.

Now, paborgas. That's an awesome woman on the move. Go girl!

After a breathless week of events and royal happenings, you can count me in as among those exhausted but feeling totally fulfilled, subagpa.

CEBU'S honorary consul of Spain, Jaime Picornell, Georgina Padilla de Mac-Crohon, duhena amarie of the Embassy of Spain Col. Pedro Rubio

HON. JESUS Manuel Gracia Rubio, Secretary of State of International Cooperation and Ibero-America, Queen Sofia, Ambassador Jorge Dezcallar, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile

JOSE Mercado, Ricardo Yuvasi

HONORARY Consul of Spain in Davao, Santiago Picornell, Faustino Pangilinan, Jovany Rubio

SPECIAL Representative of the United Nations, Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlstrom, Sen. Loren Legarda, DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman

UN INTERNATIONAL Strategy for Disaster Reduction's regional communications officer Brigitte Leoni and senior regional coordinator Dr. Jerry Velasquez, Margareta Wahlstrom, Sen. Loren Legarda

ELIAS Onsal, adviser for the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation

MALAYSIAN Ambassador Dato Seri Dr. Ibrahim Saad, Japanese Ambassador Toshinao Urabe, Sen. Loren Legarda

DOH Secretary Enrique Ona, Secretary Herminia Coloma Jr. of PCOO, Indonesian Ambassador Yohanes Kristiarto Soerjo Legowo, Assistant Secretary Lesley Cardenas of PCOO

UPA LOREN showing Queen Sofia a map indicating the areas where local films for tourist promotion are sourced from

THIGH-HIGH
ALL WE DO is NUDE
hot pocket on a coat dress which reimagines the possibilities and limits of conventional outerwear. PAGE

DIOR GRAY
SCULPTURAL lines on a slip dress of dead simple coloring PAGE

BLOUSE GOWN
KEY LOOK — mini ball gowns, cut to show they're now tops, exquisitely embroidered with fabric beads and crystal pleats

PULSATING COLOR
RAF SIMONS — Yellow and red florals, the surprising axis of the Fleur Look aesthetic which is sometimes forgotten in the buzz of nostalgia; the arrogance and circulation of the knit adds a distinctly modern, body-conscious element to these ode-to-70s looks.

Dior's new 'New Look'

Wasp waist, round shoulders–the silhouette that shook fashion after World War II is there, but so is the future

By Larry Leviton
Contributor

RAF SIMONS, the 44-year-old Belgian designer, showed his dazzling debut couture collection for Dior last week.

Fashion press Elbaz, Carella, Alaia, Fiorentino, Versace, Jacobs and Tisci watched a full-pizzazz collection weave its way in and out of five palatial rooms furnished from floor to ceiling with varied blooms, from white orchids to yellow narcissi and blue delphiniums. Simons made international style-editors and couture-clients realize that the future of fashion springs from the past. But since it's real-ized, one must forget the past.

In a like-for-revolutionary New Look of christian Dior in 1947, Simons manipulated the iconic Bar Jacket with rounded shoulders, wasp waist and padded hips or full circle skirts.

This new New Look was envisioned as cost-dress, pursuant to his trademark minimal aesthetic and new lines. There were also shorts and tarred dresses, cut like a chopped-off bathgown and worn over skinny black pants.

But it was his timeless, pulsating use of color that was the main focus of this couture-ish, first collection that dressed twelve rules of Dior signature looks.

But it wasn't like the take-it-apart deconstruction of the '90s, but rather it was the concept of alternating just one Dior code at a time.

Simons achieved the heavily impossible, a bow in the heritage of the House, yet making the clothes so supremely elegant and comfortably appropriate for the point in fashion history.

Simons says the focus of his first collection for Dior was to "change the psychology of people who are interested in couture. I want to make it more dynamic, appeal to a person who has a different energy.

"A younger person, in mind, not necessarily in age. And I think couture is very much about creating something unique for women. Fashion is en route produced now. I hope there will come a reform on how people see couture. And I would also hope for a new focus on the craft. It's crucial that the technical, investigating value is done here. But I want to approach it with a new energy. I'm interested to see how people will play with it."

The week of last Monday's show was a selection of ideas by a designer with a rare aptitude to meld modernity with initiation.

Another page is turned in fashion history, from Christian Dior's extraordinary rise to the throne of couture in 1946 to his untimely death on Oct. 23, 1957.

The 39-year-old Belgian designer, Yves Saint Laurent, was promptly put in charge of the most famous and important couture house in the world. Laurent was modestly replaced by designer Marc Bohan in late-1960, and Bohan stayed on until Gianfranco Ferre took over in 1989, who was then succeeded by John Galliano in 1996.

With just five designers in 66 years, Dior certainly carries an aura of majesty a magical place that is larger than life, most intriguing and treasured by Bal'Simons, the store and Paris's king of French haute couture.

DOG COLLAR
REAL JEWELS — made of leather and dark diamonds

SEVERE CHIC
SHOCKING pink dress turned to show an open back, revealing shrink-out black cigarette pants.

Bra-chacha, Bra-llelujah, Bra-llywood Hills...

From page G1

The new Spanx body shapers have unisex advanced levels of compression that firms up the midsection and adds more flattering shape. "Shapers take care of any problem area and keeps everything inside control."

Another innovation is the Booty Booster Short, which has back pockets to prop up the derriere. Little pads can be added to augment the butt cheek size. The result sounds unusual but would eliminate the need for laps that usually occur when one is in girdles.

Maffeo pointed out that the new slimmer-and-shine collection of bodysuit, strapless full slip and mid-thigh bodysuit provides the highest level of compression.

"It's got the highest tech in quality inside with two-way yarn," she said. The paneling works on the hips and thighs, with silky yarns that won't stick to your clothes.

Men's line

When Spanx introduced the men's line called Spanx for Men, it was a hyper-tensed hit. There's a huge demand for men's shapewear, particularly if it is torso-enhancing. Its compression undergarments are made of cotton, making them comfortable for office wear. It reduces the little bulges in the torso, whether they're growing paunches or droopy pectorals.

The men's underwear may give other brands competition. The briefs and boxers are built with a patented 3D pouch which supports and lifts. The briefs zone on the front line the skin breathe while sucking moisture. The rest of the piece is made of cotton to support the business.

However, Spanx is not designed for the overweight or obese. It addresses the concerns of people who don't want abdominal undergarments. Saxes under their clothes, or little pockets of fish that get transferred around the body when wearing a girdle or a bra.

It wasn't Barron a man's love belly but it does improve the silhouette.

THONG bodysuit flatters the top while flattening the rest of the body.

FIRM base lifting bra in high-compression underpinnings figure keeps flab where it's meant.

TANK skirt controls the midsection while the boxers keep the business cool.

HIGH-WAISTED body shapers trim the torso and smoothes the hip. The thigh-length streamlines the midriff. The model is black sweater, the Bra-chacha, which tops pair white, the trouser worn around.

Ultimately, wearing compression under garments ensures an illusion. The reality sets in when you're naked.

SM MALL OF ASIA

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GADGETS Gallery

Sony's Vaio T series gives full connectivity

By Joel Migas

TOUTED as a staunch rival to the ultrabooks sector, Sony Philippines recently launched the new thin and light Vaio T Series that also boasts of various features perfect for people on the go.

Among its distinct attributes is full connectivity and complete user experience via intelligent ports. The new Vaio T Series also features Super Speed USB which is a must-have for other mobility(...Sony's unique technologies such as the "Stupid White + You," said Isabel

USB charging.

In the Philippines beginning this month, it is available in two sizes: the 11.6" and the 13.3".

Pullicino noted by means that the Vaio T series stays connect easily and directly with other devices you need to enhance

SONY'S NO

Cloud services to boom with LTE deployment, says Smart

CLOUD-BASED services such as online storage, backup, and file sharing applications will see a spike in usage in the Philippines with the introduction of super fast wireless technologies such as Long Term Evolution or LTE, according to Smart Broadband Internet and Data Services head Lloyd Manahan.

"Cloud services are quickly gaining mainstream acceptance around the world as instant mobile operating systems such as WebOS, iOS, and Windows 8 for cloud-based services in their users," Manahan added.

Apple, for example, has integrated complimentary iCloud backup technology in all devices running the latest version of its OS.

Android and Windows are of bring the same services with Google Drive and Microsoft SkyDrive, respectively.

"We are creating more data than what can be stored in just a single memory card or hard drive, which is why being able to store and access everything online is such an attractive proposition," said Manahan.

"Cloud technology is the future of mobility and for you to fully enjoy its benefits, you need a high speed connection like Smart LTE," he said.

As the only wireless services provider with a functioning LTE network in the Philippines, Smart is ready to make available consistent high-speed connectivity on mobile devices.

It is rolled out beta tests such in this year. Smart LTE has been proven to deliver speeds of over 100Mbps, making it ideal for transferring and downloading large files such as videos from the web.

Because of its latency, LTE will also make possible large-scale multi-player games on mobile.

CLOUD 5/12

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Alcatel breaks into the market with affordable One Touch smartphones

By Marlet Salazar

ALCATEL has been quiet in recent months, content with looking out crypic news about future products. So finally the company recently announced its new line of affordable smartphones targeted for a very specific market.

Its operating system is Google Droid, several versions lower than the latest, but still powerful enough. Furthermore, Alcatel One Touch offers models such as dual SIM for people who subscribe to more than one network.

Its sleek One Touch Glory Touch phone version is Supplus 993 that operates in the Droid 2.3 .3(e) + and has a CPU speed of 1.4 GHz. It also has multiple life screen and will give that sensible users to browse the web with ease. The 4.3 inch high grade video display makes playing and recording high definition videos a breeze.

The 10 millimeter thick Supplus has a 5-megapixel camera with autofocus, smile and face detection for quality images. A 8G Fi ready phone, it can also allow users to share those photos to various social networking sites.

Connectivity does not end in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth as Supplus 993 can also be plugged in an HDMI for a surround video or game experience. It also has a pre-embedded 3G UI to make browsing and managing apps easier and faster. This new Alcatel One Touch phone also allows users to view Word, Excel, PowerPoint and PDF files and can upload videos on YouTube.

Alcatel One Touch Glam 8008 Dual, on the other hand, is intended specifically for the fun male student. Designed like a flip-top phone which may also look like a compact powder, this phone comes in signature pink and light chrome.

The dual GSM phone sparkles with customizable ring tones, essential device with incoming messages and calls. It also opens like a music box, revealing the QWERTY keyboard and the 2.4" screen. Those who want to be always connected on social networking sites can count on the Facebook button. It has a 2 megapixel camera, mp3 player, and Opera Mini web browser.

The Alcatel One Touch Glory 8 SMS/ 3 G 008 runs on an Android 2.3 Gingerbread operating system and is pre-embedded with apps for social networking, music and video, tools, and games. The G sensor allows for gamers to use the phone like a controller. It's also 3G and has Bluetooth 3.0 with A2DP and HSPA.

The TouchPal Glow lets users type by just swiping the 3.2 inch touch screen. Also, Wi-Fi connected, photos taken with the 3 megapixel camera can be shared to social networking sites immediately.

Alcatel One Touch Glory 8 008 comes in black and white and Alcatel One Touch Glory 8 008 is available in black and blue or black and red.

Alcatel One Touch Evo runs on a 3.5 gingerbread OS and is geared for first-time Android users. The multi-touch functionality and proximity sensor let users navigate through apps and images on the phone.

It has a 5-megapixel flash camera and VGA front camera that can be used for video chats. The phone can also be used as a Wi-Fi hot spot by turning the phone into a router to share Internet connection.

Alcatel One Touch Spark OS 9 20 is for hyper connected people. It also has a dedicated thumbtack button on the keypad and can sync Facebook albums to other local galleries. The PD 918 has a 5-megapixel camera with a memory slot of up to 32 GB.

Alcatel One Touch Supplus 991 D has a tablet like screen display of 4 inch screen. The keyboard makes it easier to text, chat, and browse the web. With its 5-megapixel camera and additional VGA web camera, users can simply capture 360 degree photos in panoramic mode.

Best minds in Asia compete in Maybank's GO Ahead. Challenge

Maybank

Some 'app' friends for 2012 London Olympics

HEADING to London for the Olympics this summer? Or just keen to know what's happening?

The 2012 London Olympics that is not to keep the world glued on its events and activities from July 27 to Aug. 12 but even when you're offroad mobile apps to help users keep in touch. The Join In app is available to download now on Android, iOS and Blackberry, while the Results app is available on Android and iOS.

The Join In app is a mobile guide to help you plan, enjoy and share your London experience. This free app is an essential planning tool for everyone, whether you have tickets for a sporting event or not. From the start of the Olympic torch relay to the Olympics and Paralympics, the opening and closing ceremonies, plus all the cultural, city and community celebrations happening across the UK, Join In is an essential companion.

On the other hand, The Results app provides all the latest news, schedules and results, allowing users to keep up to date with the latest action live across all Olympic and Paralympic sports.

Key features include results, live updates, calendar schedules, details of sports, medal tables and athletes profiles. Users can also choose aspects or countries, receiving official news and updates tailored to them all in one app.

This is another essential app for all sports fans to share the excitement of London 2012.

Google apps

Google has also some apps to share. From finding the best flights to smart parking to planning your route around London, these online tools for travellers can help make your Olympics trip (or any voyage easy from home) worthy of a gold medal.

1. Weather: Will the infamous London rain be falling during your trip? Plan what to pack by effortlessly checking the weather on Google Search. Just type [weather London] (or any city or city) to instantly see the forecast. Once you've arrived, simply search [weather] to see the weather in your current location.

Try it now: Search for weather London

2. Check your flight status: To use the search for arrival and departing flights, type in the name of the airline and the flight number into the search box.

Try it now: Check the status of British Airways Flight 18 from Manila to London

3. Pardon me, do you speak the Queen's English? Google Translate can translate words from Filipino to English and back, as well as Japanese, Korean, Hindi, and many other languages – for a total. In a given day we translate roughly as much text as you'd find in 1 million books. You can also use this service to translate entire documents or web pages. Enter any website address to translate google.com, and we'll automatically detect the language and translate it into your language.

Try it now: Translate "How are you" to Malay

4. Parking: Finding a parking space in London can be a nightmare. Use Google Maps to find parking spots near your destination. Search for [parking] near [location] and you'll see a list of parking spots near your destination.

5. Pack your guide in your pocket. Today's smartphones are like having a local guide who knows where to eat, what to do, how to get there, and the full backstory on that underdog athlete from Kenya. Oh, and she speaks the local language, too.

• Want to sample some local London delicacies? Use your smartphone to search Google for [restaurants], and because you're searching from a phone, Google assumes that you want places nearby. We'll give you listings of the closest ones and even put them on a map along with reviews from other diners, hours, photos and other information.

• Don't worry about getting lost. Google Maps for Mobile is like an atlas, compass, phone book, and travel guide rolled into one. You can use Google Maps for Mobile to get step by step directions to the next event and get directions for driving, walking, or public transit – with real

STORY, B3

Thousands join 2012 Social Media Day fete

THOUSANDS of Filipinos nationwide joined the recent celebration of 2012 Social Media Day.

Touted as the biggest annual gathering of social networkers, Social Media Day culminated in the form of tweet-ups which took place in several locations nationwide. Simultaneous get-togethers of the country's most influential bloggers, and "Partners," were scheduled in major cities such as Makati City and Quezon City in Metro Manila, Cebu City in the Visayas, and Davao City in Mindanao as part of the global celebrations.

Despite the lack of government support, the Philippines has been able to gain prominence online and was dubbed as the "Social Media Capital" of the world. It edged out more progressive countries such as the US and UK because of the affordability and the accessibility of broadband and mobile gadgets made available by cellular carriers such as Smart.

"Through several campaigns on popular social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Foursquare, Smart showed the world why Filipinos are the best when it comes to social media," said Smart Broadband Internet and Data Services head Lloyd Mendiola.

"It was the first time Filipinos participated in the global events in the country and we did it in a grand scale," said Mendiola. Drawing inspiration from the movie The Social Network, he adds that "this doesn't become the social media capital of the world, without getting its attention."

Smart boasts of more than 29 broadband, data, cloud-based, and prepaid solutions that enable Filipinos from all walks of life to enjoy the power of the Internet. Offerings ranging from entry-level USB dongles with share-based plans to high-speed pocket routers with volume-based allocations, for example. Are all available in thousands of brand-retail centers and partners nationwide.

"We have consistently introduced the latest, the best, and the most affordable Internet services in the Philippines," said Mendiola. "These, coupled with the Filipino public's inherently friendly and accommodative nature have spurred the Philippines to the top of the social networking heap," he said.

In September 2011, Smart pioneered free mobile data access with the introduction of SmartBro on the Smphone 700.

SmartBro is a suite of applications which enables users to chat with friends through text, search and add contacts from the cloud, check on their favorite social feeds, post updates, and read articles, among others.

But what really sets this world-first software is that it is exclusively free to use on Smart's network thanks to a proprietary technology called Safe Browse.

"Safe Browse lets smartphone users take full advantage of their device's data capabilities without fear of being charged," said Mendiola. "It only allows access to select listed sites and services so you can keep using your phone worry-free."

SmartBro is available for free download on Google Play® for Android devices and on the Apple App Store for iOS devices. A Windows version will be available soon.

In its own turn, Smart has also been very active in social media sites. It boasts of having more than 1.2 million "likes" on Facebook (the second highest in the Philippines), 15,000 followers on Foursquare, and over 200,000 followers on Twitter all of which, enable the company to further reach out to its total subscribers.

"Wherever Filipinos need to communicate, we will be there," said Mendiola. "Not only that, we will continue to improve on our services so that they can enjoy and experience that will help them Live More," he concluded.

For more information on Smart's Broadband, visit www.smart.com.ph/bro.

Cloud services to boom with LTE deployment, says Smart

From page B1

"With LTE, accessing software and services on the web will be as quick as when you open files or programs stored locally in your computer's hard drive," Mendiola said.

"LTE's low latency also ensures a reliable connection comparable to that of a high-speed wired connection such as DSL," he added.

With its P67.3 billion network upgrade now on the final stages of optimization, Smart, together with parent company PLDT, is ready to back up LTE technology with a network that includes over 50,000 kilometers of fiber optic cabling and the latest Single Radio Access Network located across the country.

"With the infrastructure set, LTE is ready for deployment," said Mendiola. "Expect our commercial offering to come out soon," he ended.

Sony's Vaio T series gives full connectivity

From page B2

your PC experience such as desk mounts, projectors, and ethernet. Connectors include VGA and LAN cable connectors, USB 3.0, USB 2.0, and HDMI ports which let you of the hassles of using micro and mini connectors that require dongles. The VAIO T Series also has an embedded memory capacity with both a memory stick and SD card slot.

In addition, it makes it easy for users to charge the computer's important components such as RAM and HDD apps when which you can do your self. Also, no need for professional help. You can also charge the battery without any hassles. These features are what make this one notch distinct from other ultrabooks.

Crisp sound

Just as how Sony products are famous for its visuals, it provides clear and crisp sound with its unique web subpoint "SOUND" and "Clear Phase" that boost volume levels without any distortion giving you impressive music, movie, and gaming experience.

With its built-in HD web camera powered by "Exmor for PC," video chats are distinctly clearer and sharper for family and friends to enjoy. This feature provides higher contrast and richer colors even in low light where other web cameras struggle with grainy, fuzzy images.

There's also plenty of space to save your pages, with photos and music with Imperfect recall. Pick, pluck to zoom, as well as pinch movements with its gesture-based multi-gesture touchpad.

Gesture Control lets you interact with your computer using intuitive hand movements. Just hold your hand up in front of the web camera and swipe left or right in Flick through web pages or use your photo gallery. Move your hand down to pause or play back music or a slideshow, or adjust music volume up and down with "waiter" movements.

Gesture Control is currently supported by Sony Media Gallery, Windows Media Player, and Windows Internet Explorer 9.

No shutting down

Pitch "Stupid Wake + Rest," you will not need to shut down anymore. It resumes from the sleep mode in an instant, letting you back to work right away. Simply close the lid to engage sleep mode. Open it again and instantly resume where you left off.

The use of the new Intel technology allows the T series to resume from sleep mode in less than one seconds, and provides effective protection for your data. The new sleep mode also uses much less battery power, extending your battery life.

This new Intel Smart Response Technology uses a hybrid drive composed of an HDD and SSD (solid state drive) that provides significantly faster data retrieval than with an HDD alone).

The SSD is used as cache memory and because it can be accessed much faster than the HDD, data can be read at higher speeds. This shortens the boot and reduces the time required to load the applications which you can mute. This technology realizes both the faster operation and high capacity storage.

Anytime charger

Other features of the new Vaio T Series include "a handy, any-time charger," comfortably spaced keyboard backlight for save-free low-light typing, the new enhanced PlayMemories Online which replaced the PMB, and the "Web" and "Social" buttons.

As a "handy, any-time charger," having your cell phone running out of battery when you're on the move should no longer be a problem. Simply plug in your phone via USB to recharge even when the computer is switched off or in sleep mode.

PlayMemories Home makes organizing and editing photos, home movies and even 3D content easier than ever. Unique new features include camera drum viewing, 3D playback, external HDD direct viewing and 3D slide show movie creation.

With this new software, you can import pictures and videos from any camera or camcorder and select long but moments instantly. When you're ready, you can transfer your masterpieces to DVD or Blu-Ray Disc or upload to Facebook, YouTube and other sites.

Lastly, the "Web" button allows speedy access to the web browsing without booting up the operation system. The dedicated "Assist" button, meanwhile, gives one touch access to Vaio Care that simplifies basic maintenance and troubleshooting tasks.

ECS introduces high-end Black Series motherboards for desktops

By Maribel Salazar

TAIWAN-BASED global technology brand Elitegroup Computer Systems (ECS) launched a new set of motherboards with the latest developed hardware technology to serve the desktop PC market.

David Chien, ECS vice president for channel business, said that the new choke technology helps maximize the performance of the motherboards. Choke is a basic resistive material that also helps enhance the machine's stability.

Heat is one of the major problems in PC technology. Chokes are a passive electronic component of a motherboard that reduces electromagnetic interference; more chokes used in current motherboards have less or no heat issues.

"The new material makes the motherboard withstand higher temperatures, particularly during the times when the PC is used for heavy computing demands and CPU overclocking," Chien said.

ECS introduced its high-end Black Series motherboards called "Golden Limited Edition Black Series," featuring "nonstop technology" and 6GF unique and new hardware technology gold-plated Super Alloy Chokes.

ECS introduced the latest nonstop technology for its motherboards to improve the long-term stability of ECS motherboards as well as the ECS Geforce GTX 680i, top choice of high-end graphics cards.

"ECS' nonstop technology is about the cares of the new motherboards that make the desktop solve common PC hardware problems before they even occur," Chien said. To illustrate, the gold-plated heat pipes in the motherboard literally changes color, which is an indication that the motherboard is adapting to a different temperature setting.

"Nonstop certified motherboards comprise four interlocking tests and enhancements that combine together to protect PCs and do-first many of the most common causes of hardware problems and system instability," Chien said. "Desktop PCs will sometimes have stable, reliable and powerful computing products for home and business use."

According to Chien, consumers prefer All-in-One (AIO) PCs resulting in significant growth in the market. With this, ECS launched its very first AIO and touch screen capable PC boasting of a 15-inch touch screen (ZIO-A15) that also features a multi-function dock and a hard drive bay. The new product uses the latest Intel and AMD platforms and a wide range of Pole Mini-ITX motherboards.

The G24 AIOs are equipped with chic 23.6-inch full HD 1080p display panel with HDMI-in support. It is available in two built-to-order lines, allowing customers to choose parts and peripherals to include in the AIO product.

The ECS Ultrabook U340 series supports Intel third generation processors, Ivy Bridge. The U340 series offers lightning fast boot-up of only seven seconds and data transmission speeds, thanks to its SSD hard drives and USB 3.0 interfaces. Additionally, the U340 series ultrabooks, weighing only 1.9 kg and with a thickness of 23 mm, feature 14-inch displays and a resolution of 1366 × 768.

The ECS 9G-Bridge, another new product, is a portable wireless display adapter that is lightweight and has a small footprint to cover more space in your living room or on your office desk.

ECS 9G-Bridge successfully breaks the wireless limitation and connects your PC or NB with an HDMI output display. It is both compliant with iOS and Android systems. You can access your content by a remote control utility bundled in the package. ECS 9G-Bridge is the best wireless solution to break the boundary between your PC and the couch.

ZTE Mobile makes tablet computing more affordable with Light Tab 2

FOLLOWING the release of ZTE Mobile's highly-anticipated Light Tab 2 device in UK, MM-ICS, the newly appointed distributor of ZTE mobile devices confirms availability of Light Tab 2 in local retail outlets. Running on Android 2.3 (Gingerbread) it has a silky 7 inch TFT-LCD, capacitive touch screen and speedy Qualcomm MSM8255 processor with ability for effective data usage on the move.

Weighing in at just 412g and small enough to carry around, the portable device comes equipped with popular apps such as YouTube and Google talk. It has an FM radio and battery life providing 5.5 hours of movie play, ideal for extended entertainment.

With 4GB of in-built memory (the tablet can hold over 200 photographs taken on either the front facing VGA camera or with the larger 5MP rear camera, or over 500 of users' favorite tracks, which can be enhanced with an external micro SD memory card.

Operating on GSM, UMTS, and HSPA networks, the tablet will be available through a number of consumer electronic and IT channels in the Philippines.

ZTE Light Tablets are shipped to more than 30 countries and regions around the world.

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Some 'app' friends for 2012 London Olympics

From page 1

tour traffic updates.

• Traverse the language barrier. If you have an Android or iPhone, you can use Google Translate mobile app for all the same benefits you get on desktop, on the go. Some languages even have voice input so you can speak a sentence into your phone.

5. Preview your destination in Google Street View and Google Earth: Check out the attractions around London and see the scene for your hotel by zooming our 360 degree ground-level photos in Google Maps Street View. You can also explore 3D models of the Olympics events venues in Google Earth.

6. Plot out your trip with My Maps: Make travel planning a snap with My Maps, a feature of Google Maps that lets you personalize the map by adding your own icons and easily access them from your account or phone on the go. Before your trip, you can mark all the locations for the events you're attending, plus your hotel and any other sights you want to take in. Share My Maps with friends and family so they can all participate in mapping out your trip. When the trip's over, use My Maps as a virtual scrapbook: add icons on the map for the great picnic spot you found in the park or for the great little gelato stand you kept seeking. You can even add text, photos and videos within the My Maps to help keep the memories alive.

7. Currency conversions: Search for [500 GBP to IT], [convert 5000 php to pounds], or [How thousand php is gbp] to see the latest exchange rates for currencies traded around the world.

Try it now: Convert P5,000 into pounds

8. World Clock: To see the time in any city around the world, type in "time" and the name of the city. See what time it is at home so you can check in with a loved one when it's most convenient for both of you.

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9. Bump your browser: As you research online in preparation for your trip, optimize your experience with the best web apps and a modern browser like Google Chrome. The Chrome Web Store is a marketplace where you can discover the best apps and extensions on the web. The travel collection in the Chrome Web Store gathers dozens of applications and tools designed to make planning a trip as easy and fun as the trip itself. Here are just a few examples of what you can find.

• Skyscanner: Find the perfect flight with this app's multitude of filters. You can sort flights by price, as well as by time, duration, and number of connections.

• Amsterdam Hotels: Pick and choose from the best hotel deals from around the world.

• CardMeleon: This nifty app turns your digital vacation photos into proper paper postcards and can send them anywhere in the world.

10. Keep up with the latest news on the London Games: Google's news search makes it easy to stay up to date on all the latest headlines about the upcoming Olympic Games. Just search for [Olympics 2012] then click on News in the left hand panel to monitor your search to see articles. You can even create a news alert and get updates sent straight to your inbox.

Try it now: News on the London Olympics

Digi.life opens first concept store in Cebu

APPLE aficionados are in for a different shopping experience as Digi.life opens its first of a kind concept store at the second floor of Cyberzone, SM City Consolacion, Cebu City. A store concept owned by MSI-ECS, one of the country's leading IT distributors, Digi.life boasts a retail floor space of 68 sq. meters showcasing an impressive array of Mac accessories, desktops, accessories, iPod, iPad, iPhone, software, and other third-party accessories such as Otaku, AirPods, Belkin, Marshly, Monopoulie, B.Electric, MSI, Adobe, Elehaven, and ICanCook.

Pilita Cobo, account of the company's top tourist destinations, the opening of Digi.life hopes to serve both local and tourist markets bringing the Apple culture and experience closer to the community and be evangelists of the saying, "Once you go Mac, you'll never go back."

Digi.life MSI City Consolacion branch is managed and operated by Thinking Tools, Inc., an authorized reseller of MSI-ECS. Thinking Tools has been in the IT retail business since 1997.

Digi.Life also functions as a drop-off point for service and repair of Apple products, supplanting an MSI-ECS and Thinking Tools' expertise in aftersales and the customers of Apple.

Other Digi.Life stores are also slated to be opened in Batangas, Laguna and additional branches nationwide by 2012.

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HP delivers the extraordinary

Get the latest Pinoy content via Smart's 'Headlines' app

Featured on NEWS

The Internet has gone mobile and so has the content that powers it. It is in this respect that Philippine wireless leader Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) has created "Headlines", a Filipino-made mobile application that delivers the freshest local and international news straight to your smartphone.

From the brains behind the Smart Bayanihan, which sees the innovative brand at the 2012 Asia Communication awards in Singapore, comes Headlines – a news aggregator taken cudgels phone-users to read the latest news from their favorite sites curated softly or collaboratively.

"We realize that Filipinos are getting into the habit of using their phones not just as phones but as true mobile communications devices," said Jessie Head of Products Development. "Headlines is an attempt not only to help Filipinos gain access to the content they want but for creators to reach a wider mobile audience as well," he added.

Unlike its previous iterations which came as a part of the pre-existing SmartNet suite of applications, Headlines is now a full-fledged standalone app for the device. It is available for free download from Google Play and is free to use on any smartphone running on the Smart network. It also free to use on any smartphones or tablet accessing to the world via WiFi.

As the app is available internationally, the news may also be accessed by anyone who is not a Filipino. Headlines is also available in several languages which enables users to post timely news stories updates on their favorite feeds, Twitter, and SmartBro interests.

"The potential reach of Headlines does not end when a reader finishes reading an story because he or she can easily pass it on to friends," Bacsarsa said. "As for users on other operating systems, don't worry—we're working a version for your devices as well," he exited.

Moreover, Smart subscribers that have SmartNet Side Bonus can enjoy Headlines for free.

To download SmartNet and Headlines on your Android device, visit the Google Play Store on your phone or tablet or go to smartbroadband.com.ph.

THEY'RE here! HP, the world's largest technology company, brings two extraordinary products to the Philippine market with the new HP Envy14 Spectre notebook and HPE h9 Phoenix desktop. Both are guaranteed to cater to the specific demands of today's users, from businessmen to hardcore gamers.

HP Envy14 Spectre: Sophisticated and powerful

Blending elegant design with industry-leading features, the HP Envy14 Spectre exudes an air of class and intelligence to match the standards of today's style-savvy business users.

It features a durable Gorilla glass finish on the palm rest, display and cover accent, and a 14-inch high-definition brilliance display that provides a generous viewing angle and vibrant colors.

It also comes with Beats Audio by Dr. Dre that even has its own jogger dial for sound selection control.

The HP Envy14 Spectre also boasts of a backlit keyboard with soft, responsive keys that make the user in dim lighting, a highly responsive touch pad for accurate pointing, and a high-definition web cam for clear and sharp online conferencing.

Packing power and style, the Spectre comes equipped with an Intel Core i7 processor, up to 8GB of dual-channel DDR3 memory and Intel HD Graphics 3000 to meet demanding computing needs.

Along with these comes a 256GB Solid State Drive (SSD), USB 3.0 and 2.0 ports, a multimedia card reader, HP Ultrima Audio and connectors installed 64-bit Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium or Professional. The Spectre can also experience outstanding on-the-go productivity with a powerful 4-cell battery that can last up to 9 hours.

HP HPE h9 Phoenix: Pushing the boundaries of hardcore gaming

Engineered to deliver maximum performance for power users, HP's new gaming desktop flagship, the HPE h9 Phoenix combines robust features with a compact, tough chassis that is perfect for demanding gamers.

Inside the highly durable metal shell is a third-generation Intel Core i5-3570K "unlocked" processor that is ready-made for easy overclocking. Coupled with a maximum capacity of 16GB DDR3 1600 memory, the highly-acclaimed Radeon HD 7770 graphics card with 1024 GDDR5 dedicated memory and third-generation PCI Express slots, the h9 Phoenix offers heavy multitasking and 3D rendering capabilities required by today's gamers.

Adding spice to its collection of performance-enhancing features is a liquid cooling system to help keep operating temperatures at its optimum levels. It also features a pre-installed Genuine Windows 7 Home Premium to handle all application needs.

For uncompromised performance, the h9 Phoenix also has a 1TB SATA 7200 hard drive for fast and reliable data storage, rare ultra-fast USB 3.0 and eight USB 2.0 ports for swift data transfer.

The high-definition 7.1 Beats audio system completes the gaming system with crystal-clear sound to match the fine graphics. Hooked up with an HP 2311p 23 high-definition LED monitor with its razor sensitive 3D glasses, the h9 Phoenix will satisfy every videophile-enthusiast craving for a highly detailed, life-like game environment.

Whether in terms of style or performance, HP truly champions the needs of the most discerning users with the all-new HP Envy14 Spectre and HPE h9 Phoenix.

Availability and pricing

The HP Envy14 Spectre and HPE h9 Phoenix are available at all HP partner stores and resellers nationwide. SRP are as follows:

HP Envy14 Spectre: P116,990
HPE h9 Phoenix: P74,990

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Brenda G. Velarde

Mailbox: [illegible] | Website: [illegible] | E-mail: [illegible]

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Lotis Key mourns Dolphy's passing

HEARD

REDWOOD City, California — One of Dolphy's biggest remorses was with actress Lotis Key, who sent this statement on his passing to ABS-CBN North America News Bureau:

"He's gone.

"For this reason, or that, they say he may not be eligible for [illegible] coveted national recognition. I'm sure he would laugh at the thought.

"For sure fall years he's possessed the biggest award that his country has to offer.

"Time that are politicians, businessman, or preacher has yet to win...the unconditional love of the Filipino people.

"An intelligent, gracious, and unique man has passed on, and I mourn with all those who love him. In the Philippines. Time will never be another movie or stage actor like Dolphy.

"That is sad for some, of all times, we need the comforting release to laughter and silliness that he instinctively provided for us.

"However, the times that shaped him have passed, and sufficient come again.

"My sincere condolences to his loved ones, and I pray the peace that surpasses all understanding be with them during this something time of loss."

Farewell, my 'Lovey'

GO-IN-LOVE The framed photo has a special place in the couple's home in Parañaque.

FIGHTS children and grandchildren who were at the hospital when he passed away managed to say their goodbyes and "Give your" but, are imagine, some of them as impassioned as Zsa Zsa Padilla's declarations. In a TV interview, Freddie Quizon son showed recalled hearing Zsa Zsa say to her partner, "I love you, I love you, I love you..."

DID YOU KNOW...

In a subsequent radio report, another grandson was quoted as saying that, when Zsa Zsa saw Dolphy all suited up before he was laid out in the coffin, she whispered, "Lovey, any pogi-pogi na (you're dashing)?" which reminded us of how, once we wondered as the pressed in front of Dolphy and said, "You like me, no?"

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Face time with Pidol

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IN THE LAST four years of his life, King of Comedy Dolphy granted the Inquirer Entertainment staff at least three sit-down interviews.

In 2005, he wouldn't've gladly remind the PDI office in Makati – but, he learned there were no lifts.

We gladly trooped to Shangri-La Makati instead, and had a tete-a-tete with Dolphy and another top estate, Vic Sotto.

Though the affair – more conversation was set before the opening of their movie "Dolphy Todoy," no topic was off-limits. In the duo – our own little sidebar here first.

Quiet Vic

Dolphy said he saw himself in Vic, particularly in the way the younger comic "saved" the women in his life.

"He's also quiet," Dolphy said.

"He's not bubbly in front you were meet- weekend," Vic quipped.

Posing Vic squarely, Dolphy said: "You will go through a lot more. But there will come a time when you will settle down like I did."

They agreed on the most painful part of any relationship: Saying goodbye.

"That's difficult ... and complicated part," Dolphy said.

"Especially if there are kids in-

PAGE 02

YouTube phenomenon Marié Digby sings for PhilPOP

The Philippine Popular Music Festival (PhilPOP) gets some international flavor.

YouTube sensation-turned-international singer-songwriter Marié Digby is in Manila to lend her voice as the celebrity performance of PhilPOP's final 14 songs. She will perform Studio Sarbo Viscaya's "[illegible]" live at the final performance and competition night on July 14, 2012 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

Digby gained popularity in 2007 after her cover/mix, some of the Rihanna hit "Umbrella" attracted worldwide attention on YouTube. She has more than 250,000 subscribers on the video sharing site. her videos have amassed more than 114 million views, and she has released three studio albums. In June 2011, the half-Irish, half-Japanese Digby signed a recording contract with local recording studio Star Records.

Digby said Wednesday that for the first time she would to prepare for PhilPOP's grand finals. Digby was delighted to meet the "inspirational behind the songs" [illegible] and the entertainment, as much, while Viscaya is up thrilled to meet the international sensation whose she voices will interpret her song amazingly.

"I'm excited to be part of a songwriting contest that supports original Filipino music," Digby said in an interview. "It's fun for a new generation of songwriters to have their chance at a big break. The [illegible] competition struck a chord in me because I had one. My break into the industry as well through a songwriting competition in the U.S." She believes PHILPOP is the perfect setting to launch new songwriters and to further enhance OPM (Original Pilipino Music [OPM]) which can internationalize.

"I am also very excited to see the performances of all the other finalists tonight this season the contestants everyone gets to walk home a winner that night. It'll be a great time to witness all the new musical talent that's here in the Philippines," she concluded.

At the time stumbled PHILPOP finals night, Digby will be joined by OPM jewelries Basil Valdez, Hajji Alejandro, Warren Cuesta and Regine Velasquez in a Wing Bank to either could be the country's next, prestigious songwriting competition to date. One of the 14 finalists will take home the grand prize of P1 million and the honor of being the first ever PHILPOP grand champion.

Two winners up will each receive P500,000 and P250,000 respectively. A jury of People's Choice Award will also be given to the most popular entry as decided by text votes. To listen to the final 14 songs and to find out more as to how the your favorite finalist, visit PhilPOP.com.ph.

PhilPOP is presented by Maynilad and Smart and it is co-presented by Mondia. PLDT, Jimmy Woods Manila and TV5. It is sponsored by Metro Pacific Investments Corporation, SEGS, PFI, and Air Canada as well as by the Wet Pacific Leadership Academy, BBM Pilipinas and media partners Inquirer, Inter Aksyon, Philippine Star, Radio Mo and Radio Republic. PhilPOP is a project of the Philpop Musical Foundation.

Face time with Pidol

From page 9

reheard," He added.

In mid-2009, Dolphy welcomed us to his home and treated the entire team to an afternoon of meaningful and memorable.

This time, he had beside him Zsa Zsa Padilla, his partner for over two decades.

Together, they were like a comedy tag team. Even in Zsa Zsa, Dolphy found a perfect comedic foil. They completed each other's sentences, acted as best male actor to the punch lines, as if by telepathy.

He explained why he had become a home body and couch potato: "I ended up with 18 kids because I used to enjoy going to night clubs."

Zsa Zsa's jealous hand retort: "I'm pretty low-maintenance myself. He has only two kids with me."

She joked that Dolphy called her to entertain during "The Holocaust segment."

"He also says I am a cheap date because I order only tuna sandwich when we go out," Zsa Zsa related.

Right before Christmas 2009, Dolphy met up with the Inquirer again... this time, he was accompanied by son Eric Quizon, who directed his film "Nobody, Nobody but Juan." The venue was the comedian's favorite mall, Rockwell.

Christmas treat

It was the Pidolcie season and to see Dolphy having a regular day at the mall was quite an experience.

Every holiday shopper who glimpsed our

ENTERTAINMENT staff—Rupert San Diego, Brenda Pidolcie and Marinel Cruz—with Dolphy and Vi Soria in 2008.

A SANTA for all seasons

Indie group resident help doing a double take. Faces lit up all around us.

Although usually less key to public, Dolphy had a ready smile for anyone. As gamely dressed as Santa Claus cap where we asked to take some snapshots.

A year later, he became the favorite Santa of my corner of the office, when he gifted the staff with a water cooler.

In this day, not everyone is happier Santa than the water dispenser is a gift from the great Pidol.

So now we thank him, and think of him every time we get a drink. Cool.

THANK you, Pidol, for keeping us cool. Or warm, as the need arises.

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6: MAGIC MIKE
7: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER

GREENBELT 3

1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
2: ICE AGE 4

GREENBELT 5

1: ICE AGE 4
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
4: ICE AGE 4 (3D)
5: MAGIC MIKE

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2: ICE AGE 4 (3D)
3: MAGIC MIKE
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
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2: ICE AGE 4
3: ICE AGE 4 (3D) ABRAHAM LINCOLN
4: THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN

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3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2
4: MAGIC MIKE

AMARITI MARIKITI

1: ICE AGE 4 (3D)
2: ICE AGE 4
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
4: MAGIC MIKE (3D)
5: ICE AGE 4
6: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: ICE AGE 4
2: ICE AGE 4
3: ICE AGE 4 (3D)
4: MAGIC MIKE (3D)
5: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
6: ICE AGE 4
7: THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN

ABREEZA

1: ICE AGE 4 (3D) ABRAHAM LINCOLN
2: MAGIC MIKE (3D)
3: ICE AGE 4
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)

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VANDOLPH

Vandolph: I want to be like my dad

By Regalio Constantino Medina
Contributor

VANDOLPH Quijano, Dolphy's son with actress Alma Moreno, does not dance words about his dad.

The love appearer in the King of Philippine comedy said:

"Almost all the good qualities of one person are in my dad. I respect him so much. I want to be like him....He was my model. He was everything to me].

He added in Pilipino: "I saw how well he treated people. I saw how helpful he was. He was so loving to his family. My father was really a kind person. I love him so much."

Vandolph, at age four, appeared in the film "Bata Batuta," then later in the ABS-CBN sitcom "Home Along Da Hills." He was also in the action series "Panday" on GMA-7 in 2000 and "Panday Kids" on ABS-CBN in 2009. He launched his first gag show "Quinta Avenue" on ABS-CBN in 2006. In 2009, he joined his dad in the family variety sitcom "Pidol's Wonderland" on TV5.

"Nanunuyan ako kapag umaandong umaawit ako or pagod ng umuwi ko [Dingdong] Dantes ang tawag ko sa akin [dahil] ako ang [kahawig ng] kanyang [tatay]," Vandolph said.

On weekends, he used to play basketball with his cousins and nephews in front of their house on Bohol Street, Mission Subdivision in Pasay City.

He said he could still play basketball and doesn't lose his appetite even if he was sick.

"Hindako po rin ako. Kain po rin ako nang kain. Kasama ang sarap ko [I was still strong. I was always eating, with my father]," he fondly recalled.

When he met a car accident in 2003, which almost claimed his life, he said Dolphy was such a supportive father. Dolphy was always there in the hospital, saying to it that Vandolph was safe and alright.

With his father's death, Vandolph's world was devastated for he lost "a very good father, my best friend and confidant."

He realized, however, that he ought "to accept fate well and the harsh realities of life."

HEARD

IRMA Igancillo: "I am honored to be one of the last people granted an interview by Tita Dolphy for his "Reinventing PAO" special. People talk about his generosity and graciousness, which I experienced during our taping. He joked about our Pinterdian like mom.

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2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
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NOW a collector's item

'Handog ni Pidol': Revisiting roots of song-and-dance man

By Pachido Castrejon

CD Review

IT'S INTERESTING to note that Dolphy started his show biz career at age 10, as a chorus boy in a vaudeville revue at the old Avenue Theater in Manila, and that he auditioned by showing off his dancing skills.

So was understandably thrilled when, at age 62, he released his one and only full-length CD, "Handog ni Pidol: A Lifetime of Music and Laughter" (Pidol at Record).

"This is my rewards (sweetness) for everyone who loves me," he told the Inquirer one afternoon in November 2010, as he held the first few copies of the CD brought by the record label bosses to his Pasadena residence.

"Handog ni Pidol"—now a collector's item after the legendary comedy king passed away on Tuesday night—is significant for several reasons.

First, it gave Dolphy the opportunity to sing the songs he loved listening to—pop standards in the Great American Songbook, a number of which were wonderfully arranged by Mel Villena, who gathered his orchestra in the AMP Convention Center by Mandaluyong Pilipinas hotel to record the music.

The mood in "The Way You Look Tonight," for instance, can trigger nostalgia among the older generation of jazz lovers; on the other hand, young music fans are bound to discover that Dolphy is, indeed, a crossover singer who boasts what phrasing and improvisation are all about.

Second, the CD lets listeners experience the musical ties that bound Dolphy to the last woman he loved, Zsa Zsa Padilla, and their daughter Zia. In the duet track, "You're Just in Love (I Wonder Why)," Dolphy and Zia engage in contemporary singing. This is followed by "You Made Me Feel So Young," a duet with Zsa Zsa in which Dolphy slips in a corny ad lib ("Oh, Zsa Zsa, you look so yummy ... paint smears ko'y ...) before singing the first verse.

Third, Dolphy's famed wit and fun-

ZIA acknowledges her dad's "wonderful taste in music."

ness are all over the album, especially in two novelty numbers, "May Isda ang Tao sa Dalon ng Buhay" and "Estero at Ang Dyip"—featuring guest singers Alan Lopez and Dolphy's son Sandolphy.

Though the album opens and ends with a swinging take on a rock 'n' roll classic, "Rockville," which Dolphy plays around with as a prelude ("Stanzas") and prologue ("Stanza") to getting happily drunk, a coda..."Standing"...offers a sobering thought on the lasting legacy of the gay skilled Comedy King.

With this record, the song-and-dance man cannot fall down.

Like father...

In a similar vein, the release of Zia Quizon's self-titled debut EP—incidentally in the same year, with the same record label...symbolizes Dolphy and Zia Zia's genetic influence on their daughter. Though consisting only of six tracks, "Zia" offers convincing proof that her future as a singer is secure.

A mix of covers and originals, the record scores a high point in Jacques Morelenbaum's "Wave (a Vinha)," where light and breezy jazz at taupe-heart is elevated by Zia's allowing full-bodied vocals.

Her rendition of "Manhobela," first recorded by her mom in 1986, is given a touch of bossa nova.

In her thank you notes, Zia acknowledges her dad's "wonderful taste in music."

Acclaimed lensman in PH indie

FILIPINO indie filmmaker Rhaya de la Cruz will work with acclaimed cinematographer Christopher Doyle in his latest full-length feature, "Tainted Heart."

"We have a really good team on board, and I can't wait to see what we'll come up with," said De la Cruz. "The next few months should be interesting."

Stephen Hall, chief executive officer of the film's German co-producer Rapid Eye Movies, released: "Thanks [Doyle] is very excited and he came on board when we revealed him."

Doyle is credited for the cinematography for Zhang Yimou's "Hero," Gus Van Sant's "Psycho," M. Night Shyamalan's "Lady in the Water" and Wong Kar-wai's "To the Mood for Love," among others.

"Tainted Heart" is the long version of De la Cruz's "Passing Wanak," an entry in the short film competition of this year's Cinemalaya. It is also included in this year's Pusto Project pitching program.

"Wanak is Rhaya's most ambitious film to date. It will take him to another level," said Binjo Bahadoricio, head of the Pusto Project. —Rappler's Dan Jhorge Jr.

ENTERTAINMENT

Time to get off The Bat

'I don't like big goodbyes so I was fairly quick about that,' says Christian Bale, who plays Batman for the last time in 'The Dark Knight Rises'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rubeo V. Sapalaro

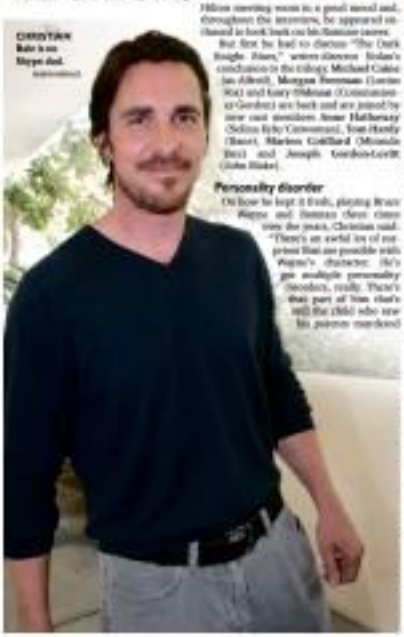
LOS ANGELES—"This is time to say goodbye," Christian Bale said as he sat down to talk with us one last time as the star of "The Dark Knight" film series.

"We could continue endlessly with this, but this is the right time," he added. "Clarke (Nolan) has written a wonderful final chapter."

Distraction

Distraction walked into the Beverly Hilton meeting room in a good mood and, throughout the interview, he appeared unchained to look look on his funniest moves.

But first he had to discuss "The Dark Knight Rises," writer-director Nolan's conclusion to the trilogy. Michael Caine (as Alfred), Morgan Freeman (Lucius Fox) and Gary Oldman (Commissioner Gordon) are back and are joined by new cast members Anne Hathaway (Selina Kyle/Catwoman), Tom Hardy (Bane), Marion Cotillard (Miranda Tate) and Joseph Gordon-Levitt (John Blake).



Personality disorder

On how he kept it fresh, playing Bruce Wayne and Batman three times over the years, Christian said: "There's an awful lot of variations that are possible with Wayne's character. He's got multiple personality disorders, really. There's that part of him that's still the child who saw his parents murdered in front of him and he's stayed at that point. He's a very sad, lonely individual who is unable to move on with his life."

Speaking in his low, quiet voice, Christian added: "Wayne has the public persona of the playboy and then he's got the sinister character of Batman, who is the personification of his rage and his sense of injustice. He's almost a villain. He takes it right to the edge where he can do great wrong but he has the altruism that holds him back from doing that. There are so many stories that can be written in the series."

But, as Christian said, it was time to move on.

The former child actor pointed out that he did not keep the Batsuit. Nor kept the cowl from each of the three movies.

Asked how he would react if he was walking in the middle of the night and encountered a man dressed like Batman, Christian grinned and replied: "That would be a mistake, right? Hopefully, it's Halloween and he's had a little bit of drink—in which case, he'd be a lot of fun. But that was very much what I thought when I first played this character. I thought, when someone is dressed like that—he's an idiot or you've really got to understand...he takes it very seriously. He jests as that Wayne is not a heedless superhero. He's somebody who practices altruism, like I said. He's managed to turn his pain into something good. But he's in great danger of the pain overcoming that good, although he takes this very seriously."

Batman costume

Christian offered his take on the Batman costume: "The reason he dressed that way is that he feels inanimate," he remarked. "Therefore, he creates a monster to represent that rage and keep it away from his personal life. That was a job that both Tom Hardy and Anne Hathaway had to incorporate themselves into as well—not to feel like fools who were walking around in silly Halloween costume. That we would understand is not that they would have a very clear reason about why they did such a thing."

Career break

The Batman crossover was a blessing to his career, admitted the Wales native. "What I found before Batman is that I would have these wonderful creative conversations with directors and writers," he recalled. "They'd always say, 'I'd love you to be in my movie.' Then financiers would get [illegible]

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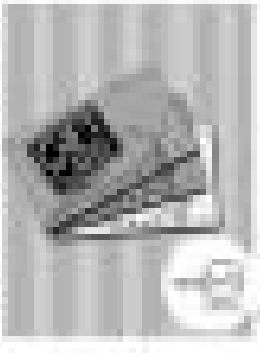

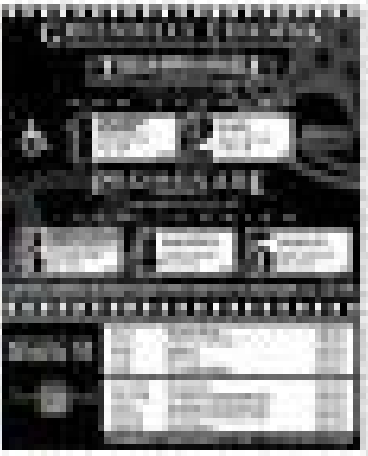

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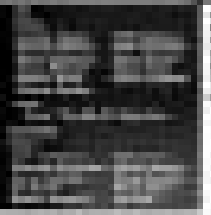

Gov't support for artists' welfare sought

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MORE than awards and tributes, artists need government support and attention.

The recent passing of Comedy King Dolphy and other artists from the theater and movie world: Intended acupuncturist Edgardo Reyna, theater director Tony Tuason and actor-writer-filmmaker Mario O'Hara) has brought to the fore an urgent issue: The need to normalization of a more expansive welfare and health care system for cultural workers.

It has become common to remember them on Facebook and other social-networking sites for various ailing artists who need financial and medical aid.

The obvious question remains unanswered: Who is taking care of our nation's artists?

Batgirl and movie actress Kidlat Ajoni has recalled a meeting with concerned artists' representatives: "We never could point blank by an official that the arts is not the government's priority."

Confronted by institutional apathy, the artists themselves have decided to take matters into their own hands.

Taking action

Last year, Agnilio and her colleagues set up the Theater Actors Guild (TAG) to protect the rights and promote the interests of stage thespians.

TAG is only the latest in a steady stream of organizations that have risen up for artists' welfare in an advocacy.

In 1974, movie industry leaders Joseph Estrada, Fernando Poe Jr. and Dolphy set up Mowelfund (Movie Workers Welfare Foundation, Inc.).

After almost four decades more in founding, its current head Boots Anson-Roa still has the first to admit that Mowelfund still needs all the help it can get, for it is to effectively serve its 2,700 members.

Roa said: "We need additional sources of funding. Our regular sources (from the Metro Manila Film Festival proceeds) was slashed by more than half. As of now, we maximize a lot of fundraising projects to keep up with our members' needs."

In 2004, filmmakers Joel Lamangan, Mel Chionglo and friends formed the Sinphilkultura Matagpuan ng Pelikulang Pilipino, an accommodation that offers subsidized med-hospital programs to marginalized movie workers.

Other groups from the arts and entertainment spheres have set up their own welfare systems as well to address this growing concern of a graying industry.

Health insurance

In 1986, singers put up the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-awit (OPM) to look at their own community. (OPM helped late singer Didith Reyes meet her hospitalization needs.)

"We now have health insurance coverage for all members," said singer-and-OPM head Ogie Alcasid.

Randolf Jusef, actor and actress-in-charge of Sinaglahing Pilipino, told the Inquirer that he and several concerned colleagues founded the Artists Welfare Project, Inc. (AWPI) in 2007.

"The idea for AWPI started when a number of theater directors from the University of the Philippines fell ill four years ago," Jusef recalled. "We kept passing the hat." So we decided to form a group that would take care of our colleagues' emergency needs."

Jusef is president and fellow actor Bonnie Lazaro is vice president of AWPI. Apart from actors, AWPI also hopes to cover other artistic disciplines like the visual arts and literature," said Jusef.

He added that through its various fund-raising projects, AWPI has raised P1.6 million.

"We realize that our resources could be easily depleted if just one or two of our members would fall ill," Jusef explained. "As of now, we are formulating policies, with the help of our chair Karina Constantino-David, on how to best distribute our welfare benefits to our members, which is now number over 200."

Jusef hopes to establish insurance, health, education, and housing programs for AWPI members, too.

Jusef commends the efforts of Agnilio and TAG in confronting the struggle among younger artists.

"We are passing the torch ... Our batch is already in the departure area, so to speak," said Jusef.

Agnilio explained that TAG is presently looking into the possibility of enrolling its members in the national health insurance program Philhealth.

"Actors are freelancers. We want to provide to our members the same healthcare benefits that regular employees get," clarified Agnilio, who is the president of TAG.

Support from colleagues

One good thing about artists is that they rarely rally behind any colleague who needs help. "We are always ready to chip in. Unfortunately, actors are not rich. Every year, at least one artist is bound to get sick. We keep doing fund-raisers, but they're not enough. We need to systematize everything," Agnilio said.

Mercedes Laschengco-Yulo, artistic director and associate artistic director of Repertory Philippines, is elaborated by society's general neglect of artists.

"We should never forget our artists," Yulo asserted. "A lot of our industries would be wrong ... unsung heroes. Our most seasoned artists are pushed aside."

In Repertory Yulo said, they've made it a point to take care of their own. "We set aside a fund to take care of our members' hospitalization needs."

Actors need to take care of their own because aid is not forthcoming from other sources, particularly the government. "We get no support at all. For example, when we meet with government agencies, so that they could promote our shows, are are often told those are not priorities. This bit of gem: Our economy has bigger problems. It's really difficult," said Yulo.

"It's sad," internationally acclaimed singer-actress Lea Salonga described the situation.

Salonga, who will appear with Yulo in Repertory productions' staging of "Cool of Carnage," told the Inquirer: "In the United States, there's an Actors Fund that's earmarked specifically for actors who need assistance. (We) to try (up) to set up a similar system here."

(According to its website, The Actors Fund is a nonprofit human services organization that helps all performing arts and entertainment.)

Agnilio related that TAG is now studying the feasibility of tapping into the Equity pie. "The share from the Equity will accommodate to TAG's healthcare program," Agnilio said.

Performers' equity rights

In 1967, Agnilio recounted, the Performers' Equity Rights Program was instituted.

According to Ehmat Ogbac, OPM executive director, the Equity Rights Program was envisioned as "a government-private initiative which seeks to provide assistance to local performers and producers whose livelihood and practice of profession are displaced by the influx of foreign productions", secondary sources or clustered productions.

Ahmad explained that OPM had entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Association ng mga Bandang Pilipino (AMP) and the Bureau of Immigration toward this end.

"The MOA was originally signed in 1989 and was renewed in 2004," recalled Ingles, adding that "OPM collects from foreign singers ... AMP from foreign musicians. In ending it's the producers that pay. Philippine Legitimate Stage Artists Group, Inc.) representative Jonel participating as a companion. TAG is not yet included in the MOA but will soon become (a part of it)."

Jusef pointed out that the government should not neglect artists. "By focusing on economic policies and neglecting the arts ... We may become rich financially, but we may also lose our soul as a nation."

Jusef was saddened that AWPI wasn't able to assist Eppie, O'Hara and, earlier, the late actor Jose Mari Avellana, in their hour of need.

He explained: "They were not AWPI members. Perhaps the younger generation may be the ones who will benefit from AWPI's work."

Jusef, however, pointed out that Sinaglahing Pilipino would pay tribute to O'Hara by staging his play ("Tungkuhan") in November at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"It's a comic satire, a play which was considerably about aging performers from the Manila Grand Opera House and Clover Theater," Jusef related. "It's both funny and poignant and captures the painful truth: Artists who have sacrificed so much in society are often forgotten and neglected when they grow older."

(bayanisandiego@hotmail.com)

BOOTS Anson-Roa

OGIE Alcasid

MERCHI Laschengco-Yulo

EULALA Agnilio

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35th Gawad Urian Best Actor

Now you see them, now you don't

OUR RECENT article on the reappearance of the top TV news anchor Pia Hontiveros on Solar TV's evening newscast has prompted some TV buffs to ask for the return of other recently missed personalities, whose current absence from the small screen has saddened them.

For instance, some fans of Deanna Bass, who's no longer visible on early-morning TV, say that their action-setting has keenly been on a daily basis.

In addition to her good looks, Deanna's heart is in the right place and she speaks with authority about what young mothers like her feel and think.

Perhaps in her next TV outing, she can effect a major makeover to freshen up her on-screen proportion? She's clearly too young and good to let what she does to her pop up on the shelf for keeps.

Young spark plug

Ditto for lovely young spark plug and bossy fun-cracker Nikki Valdez, who should be seen on a regular basis. Just last week, we caught her "guest-cooking" on Aunor de Belen's show, "Tipnos," and she more than held her own against Aunor as a cook and entertaining ad-libber.

Nikki may already be a young mother, but she retains the exuberance of youth which, combined with the wisdom she's gained from life itself, makes her an eminently viewable performer and person.

She definitely should be seen on TV on a more regular basis, either in a role-setup, a comedy show or daily chatter. Or why not all three?

Also missed

Other personalities some viewers want to see more often on the tube, as themselves or in characters in a scripted series, include Amy Austria, Bibeth Orteza, Ina Feleo, Giselle Sanchez, Dubsee Sedia, Ricky Davao, Tirso Cruz III and Bernadette Sembrano.

How essential TV would be with all of them in regular acting harness once again!

A different case

Bonnie Tomas is a different case in point: She's been acting in a number of telenovelas of late, and doing quite well as a "serious" actress, too. But some of her fans hope that, before the year is over, she'll find time to go back to her comedy impersonations and satirical roots, just to "shock people who're still in charge." Funny phrase, TT?

As for Eugene Domingo, she's become a big movie star, but a fan recalls that she had her start in the theater and hopes she sees do a play again soon.

Well, don't look now, but Eugene is exploiting a stage production soon. It's Peta's stage adaptation of Lino Brocka's film, "Bona," which featured the Nora Aunor in the title role and in one of her very best portrayals.

But Lino shouldn't expect Eugene to do a Nora-vs-Peta's version of "Bona," which is reported to be quite different in tone from Brocka's 1980 masterpiece. It's being played more for laughs and some think for droll serious drama. Hmm, intriguing!

VIEWFINDER

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5	Insulator/Bushing set	10 unit
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7	Service Wire	1 roll
8	Transformer Oil	20 liters
9	Wire, Conductor Aluminum wire	1 roll
10	Insulator/Bushing set, Electric Post, Connectors and others	100 kg
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12	Insulator/Bushing set	0.5 kg
13	Wire, Conductor Copper Wire	700 kg
14	Wire, Conductor Aluminum Wire (ACSR)	1 roll
15	Wire, Conductor Aluminum Wire (ACSR)	1 roll
16	Wire, Conductor Wire, Post Metric	1 roll
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Interested Parties are invited to submit the following sealed qualification documents: Certified true copies of Secretary's Certificate for Resolution from BOD, SEC and BIR, Company's Profile or Latest Audited Financial Statement (CY 2011) to be submitted on or before the deadline of submission of sealed bid proposal.

Submission of qualification documents and inspection of non-performing assets will start on July 13 to August 1, 2012 at the Office of Asset Management and Disposal (OAMD) at ILECO II Main Office, Brgy. Cawayan, Passi City.

Opening of qualification documents will be on August 2, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at the ILECO II Main Office, Brgy. Cawayan, Passi City.

ILECO II reserves the right to reject any or all bid, waive any or all formalities and accept the bid which in its judgment is most advantageous to the government. Further, ILECO II reserves the right not to award any bid.

For more information, please contact the Treasury Dept., Telefax No. (033) 311-2000 loc. 2012 or (033) 311-2012 (033) 313-0446.

(Sgd.) EDWARD DEL ROSARIO
General Manager

PSN - July 13, 2012

NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that

Christine Balangue Bacarisas

and

Lanvil Villaflores Villareal

have entered to be employed with BI Bank in Dumaguete City and have existing warrant of arrest in Criminal Case Number xxxx-xx-xxx before the sala of Judge Excellent C. Bandoy of RTC Branch xx in Dumaguete City. Any information of their whereabouts may be relayed to the nearest law enforcer or to BI Bank at tel. (035) xxx xxxx.

PSN - July 13, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 807 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National / Citizenship	Position
EASTAPOR TRADING CORP. 148 Sacco Rd., Novaliches, Quezon City	Rajwinder Kaur Indian	Data Representative
EASTAPOR TRADING CORP. 148 Sacco Rd., Novaliches, Quezon City	Gurjeet Singh Indian	Purchasing Officer
BENT WOOD ENTERPRISE CORP. 10 Amsterdam St., Project 6, Quezon City	Amandeep Kumar Indian	Assistant Sales Manager
EMPHESIS SERVICES LIMITED UGF Technopoint Tower, ACRI Plaza, 68-70 Ayala ave., San Antonio, Makati City	Paul Bienvenue Ngako British	Search Engine Optimization (SEO) Head
EMPHESIS SERVICES LIMITED UGF Technopoint Tower, ACRI Plaza, 68-70 Ayala ave., San Antonio, Makati City	Pierre Lemmens British	IT Project Manager
BANK PHILCAPITAL LIMITED 11/F Tower 2, Enterprise Centre, Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City	Amit Indian	Business Intelligence Language Collection Service Officer
CYNOSS, INC. U 1606-09 One San Miguel Condominium, San Miguel Ave. cor. Shaw Blvd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jung Ok Kim Korean	Director
SPORTS HOUSE ONLINE INC. 28/F Technopoint Tower, ACRI Plaza, 68-70 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Goh Sai Chun Malaysian	Senior Manager / Chinese Language Collection Service Support Staff
BRITISH EDUCATION, INC. UBS 3D, Subangdaku, Mandaue-Consolacion Cebu, Tagaytay City	Alan Richard John Rundell British	Teacher
BRITISH EDUCATION, INC. UBS 3D, Subangdaku, Mandaue-Consolacion Cebu, Tagaytay City	Deborah Anne Rundell British	Teacher
GW3 BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. 11/F Technopoint Tower, ACRI Plaza, 68-70 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Lah Hock Wei Malaysian	Technical Operations Data Analyst Officer
ARGUS PHILIPPINES HOTEL HOTELS, INC. Unit 207 Sison Mansion, 2433, Recoletos St. Brgy. San Antonio, Makati City	Dongjing Moon Korean	Financial Manager
EF MONGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. - PHILIPPINE GLOBAL SERVICE CENTER 11/F San Miguel Building, Unit 5, Square One Crescent Park West, San Rustican Global City, Taguig City	Robert Alan Brown American	Vice President
KAY SHIN SUN SUN KOREAN BUFFET Sentosa Mall Plaza, Quezon Ave. cor. Sct. Santiago & Panay Ave., Quezon City	Kwanghee Shin Korean	Cashier Manager
BLACKBERRY HEIGHTS AND HOTELS, INC. 5/F Glad Tidings Center, Harbor Drive cor. Roha Coast Ave., SM Business Park, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City	Lorraine Palma Lee Kee Philippines	Vice President for Business Development and ICT Services
JAPPS, INPER-CULTURE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE INC. 1/F Bel-Air Bldg., Quezon cor. Salt ave., Makati, Manila	Sakura Tsukiashi Japanese	Business Language Teacher
SIPCO ALARM CORP. 12/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Tae Kyun Im Korean	Manager, Business Development Department

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National / Citizenship	Position
TENT AND JACKET BEAUTY SALON CORP. UGF Bldg., MT 1, Makati St., Brgy. 031 Zone 004 Makati, Manila	Kang Su Lee Korean	Hair Stylist
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KOREA CONFIDENT CORPORATION UGF Jaka Bldg., 6780 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yeonmi Kim Korean	General Manager
CBK BUSINESS SERVICES INC. UGF 1606 Cathedral Ave. Bldg., 130 Panay Ave. cor. Timog Ave., Quezon City	Hoon Lee Chinese	Assistant Customer Service Representative - Mandarin
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SAMSUNG SCANDALS FASHION CORP. UGF Rockh, Star Bldg., Makati Ave., cor. San Antonio Ave., Makati City	Nauk Duk Sung Malaysian	Project Supervisor
TAGAYTA MAL HOSP. CORPORATION 2/F Pacific Star Bldg., Makati Ave., cor. San Antonio Ave., Makati City	Masanobi Eto Japanese	Advisor for Electrical
TOTAL AUTO SERVICES CORPORATION Building 7 Portsmouth Commercial Complex, Manila Ave., Brgy. Upang, Pasig City	Si Hoon Song Korean	Sales Representative
SURINDER HARPEET TRADING, INC. 4 Cor. Concepcion St., Lahtaan City	Devender Singh Indian	Purchasing Assistant
LYCOS CEBU (PHILIPPINES) PTY LTD. UP Ayala-Makati Tech Institute, Global City, Taguig City	Dionisio Pulvo Australian	Technical Consultant
SCHOOL OF HOTELS UNIVERSITY Loyola Heights, Quezon City	Hanseok Pradeep Korean	Associate Professor
TELEMATICS CORPORATION UGF Jaka Bldg., Ayala Ave. cor. Sct. Lazar St., Brgy. Paris Spark, Quezon City	Hyun Seok Park Republic of KOREA	International Marketing Manager
BEYOND GLOBAL LEADER, INC. UGF Mandaluyong Bldg., 350 San Jose St., Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Woo Park Korean	Operations Manager
TOTAL AUTO SERVICES CORPORATION Building 7 Portsmouth Commercial Complex, Manila Ave., Brgy. Upang, Pasig City	Gangjin Park Korean	Manager
PENG SHU LINE IMPORT & EXPORT CORP. 4/F Alpha Village Bldg., Brgy. 666, Zone 070 No. 2700, Civic Manila	Hallasan Ko Chinese	Assistant General Manager
GENERAL IMPT. CORPORATION UGF Rm. 102 Pte. Nathaniel Bldg., 108 Tordesillas, Cor. Salcedo St., Makati, Manila	Tanushree Lim Chinese	Assistant General Manager
PEAK EVERGREEN TELEMARKETING, INC. 10/F SSC Bldg., E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City	Kim Seokhoo Korean	Telemarketing Supervisor

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALANIS MACALAM, CESO III
Regional Director

PSN - July 13, 2012

NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that

Christine Balangue Bacarisas

and

Lanvil Villaflores Villareal

have entered to be employed with BI Bank in Dumaguete City and have existing warrant of arrest in Criminal Case Number xxxx-xx-xxx before the sala of Judge Excellent C. Bandoy of RTC Branch xx in Dumaguete City. Any information of their whereabouts may be relayed to the nearest law enforcer or to BI Bank at tel. (035) xxx xxxx.

PSN - July 13, 2012

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that Mr. Frederick "Eric" Rodriguez (of Molino, Bacoor, Cavite) whose picture appears above is no longer connected with Alliance In Motion Global, Inc. effective 3 July 2012.

Any unauthorized transaction made or entered by Mr. Rodriguez will no longer be honored by Alliance In Motion Global, Inc.

PSN - July 13, 2012

ALLIANCE GLOBAL

Alliance In Motion Global, Inc. is not an investment scheme. Bonuses and commissions paid by AIM Global, Inc. to its distributors are based on direct sales of its products through personal and group sales production.

PSN - July 13, 2012

FMF DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

3/F ALPAP I Building, 140 L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 811-1100 to 01

DIVIDEND NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Company declared a cash dividend of P0.15 per share to all stockholders of record as of July 5, 2012, payable on July 31, 2012 at the principal office of the corporation.

(Sgd.) ROBERTO S. SAN JOSE
Corporate Secretary

PSN - July 13, 2012

FOR SALE

STEEL TRUSSES

4000 Square Meters
Butler Type

0908-8985740
0917-8374170
586-7287

BOUSTEAD

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOMEBUILDERS

UPAT GAMIT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LAND & WAREHOUSE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

HOUSE & LOT

CONDO/TWNHSE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAR LOAN

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUY - SELL - TRADE
ROLEX
LOUIS VUITTON

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

More Classifieds on page

Department of Agrarian Reform — (DAR) 83

CALL: (02) 909-4747
0939-9484376

CALL PUEA
24-HOUR CHAT LINES
911-3000 to 911-3100

2010 BMW 730D
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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

P 60,000

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

	PROCUREMENT OF BRAND NEW EQUIPMENT (LOT 1) (MULTI-MEDIA PROJECTOR & PROJECTOR SCREEN) AND BRAND NEW FURNITURE AND OFFICIAL CAR OF BIR - BIR NAIA REGULARITY	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL CONNECTION (POWER LINE), FROM THE POWERHOUSE TO BIR-REGULARITY DIVISION BUILDING (BUILDING OF BIR-NAIA CAR)	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FURNITURE & FIXTURES (LOT 2) INCLUDING ACCESSORIES AND INSTALLATION FOR BIR-NAIA REGULARITY DIVISION BUILDING & INTERNAL CONNECTION TO BIR-NAIA REGULARITY DIVISION BUILDING
Approved Budget of the Contract	Php 2,500,000.00	Php 2,000,000.00	Php 2,500,000.00
Source of Funding	GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FY 2012 (CY 2012 Budget)	GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FY 2012 (CY 2012 Budget)	GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FY 2012 (CY 2012 Budget)
	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS
	Lot 1 - MULTI-MEDIA PROJECTOR Quantity: One (1) unit Unit Cost: P 2,500,000.00 Brand: Sony Model/Type: VPL-FX52 Lens: LCD - 3000 lm Lens Shift: Vertical Input Terminals: (1) HDMI, (1) RGB, (1) Video, (1) S-Video Output Terminals: (1) RGB Color Shade Modes: Standard, Presentation, Theater, Game Warranty: 1 Year Parts and Labor Lot 2 - PROJECTOR SCREEN Quantity: One (1) unit Unit Cost: P 500,000.00 Brand: Da-Lite Model/Type: Cosmopolitan Electrol Size: 16' x 9' Viewing Area: 16' x 9' Warranty: 1 Year	A. FRP Pipes and Fittings (Underground Installation) 1. Installation Trench Excavation FRP Solvent Primer & Cement Backfill Sand B. Concrete Encasement (Underground Installation) C. Wires & Cables (Overhead Installation) Electrical Tape Binding Tape D. Circuit Breakers ICCB 100A, 3P 240V ICCB 60A, 3P 240V Enclosure Box Busbar Insert	Regional Office Quantity: ONE LOT Unit Cost: P 2,000,000.00 Delivery: 60 days Warranty: 1 year Bureau of Internal Revenue Regional Office - BIR Quantity: ONE LOT Unit Cost: P 500,000.00 Delivery: 60 days Warranty: 1 year
Minimum Qualifications	Bidder must have at least 3 years experience in the business, with principal business being with government agency. Office is established and with permanent address. Bidder must submit Mayor's permit and other documentary requirements.	Bidder must have at least 3 years experience in the business, with principal business being with government agency. Office is established and with permanent address. Bidder must submit Mayor's permit and other documentary requirements.	Bidder must have at least 3 years experience in the business, with principal business being with government agency. Office is established and with permanent address. Bidder must submit Mayor's permit and other documentary requirements.
Availability of Bid Documents	July 13, 2012 to August 1, 2012 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Procurement Unit Ground Floor, BIR Building Bonifacio Highway Brgy. San Nicolas San Fernando, Pampanga	July 13, 2012 to August 1, 2012 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Acknowledgement Section Ground Floor, BIR Building Bonifacio Highway Brgy. San Nicolas San Fernando, Pampanga	July 13, 2012 to August 1, 2012 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Acknowledgement Section Ground Floor, BIR Building Bonifacio Highway Brgy. San Nicolas San Fernando, Pampanga
Pre-Bid Conference	July 27, 2012 9:00 AM Regional Conference Room Ground Floor BIR Building Bonifacio Highway Brgy. San Nicolas San Fernando, Pampanga	July 30, 2012 9:00 AM Regional Conference Room Ground Floor BIR Building Bonifacio Highway Brgy. San Nicolas San Fernando, Pampanga	July 30, 2012 9:00 AM Regional Conference Room Ground Floor BIR Building Bonifacio Highway Brgy. San Nicolas San Fernando, Pampanga
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Documents and Sealed Bid (Bid Opening)	August 1, 2012 - 9:00AM Regional Conference Room Ground Floor BIR Building Bonifacio Highway Brgy. San Nicolas San Fernando, Pampanga	August 1, 2012 1:00 PM Regional Conference Room Ground Floor BIR Building Bonifacio Highway Brgy. San Nicolas San Fernando, Pampanga	August 1, 2012 1:00 PM Regional Conference Room Ground Floor BIR Building Bonifacio Highway Brgy. San Nicolas San Fernando, Pampanga

Bidding documents/forms shall be made available to interested bidders after payment of a non-refundable amount of ₱5,000.00 (Lot 1), ₱2,000.00 (Lot 2) and ₱7,000.00 (Lot 1 & 2) for the Supply & Delivery of Furniture & Fixtures and Installation of Electrical Connection to Bureau of Internal Revenue - Regularity Division Building and Official Car of BIR-NAIA Regularity Division. Bidders may opt to purchase the bidding documents through the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at the Philippine International Convention Center for the Regional Office of Revenue District No. 43 Quezon City Government - Cubao, Cubao Expo, Cubao Gateway Complex, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City. Only bidding documents acquired from the said PhilGEPS shall be considered as the official bidding documents in the bidding process.

The process for the public bidding and awarding of contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

BIR RDO 43 San Pedro City reserves the right to reject any or all bids in any part thereof, to waive any informality or irregularity in any bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government.

BIR RDO 43 San Pedro City shall not be liable for any and all costs associated with the bidding, regardless of the bidding process conducted or the award.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

BIR-RDO 43 San Pedro City

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Regional Office – III
Hilguerson Building, Balibar Boulevard, Dinalupihan, Bataan

INVITATION TO BID – IB # 2013-003
(Procurement of IT Equipment)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) intends to apply the sum of ₱ 2,000,000.00 being the ABC to payments under the contract for the Procurement of IT Equipment.

Lot	Item	Qty.	Unit Cost	Total
Lot 1	Desktop Computers with UPS	10	₱ 100,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
Lot 2	Network Copier/ Printer	10	₱ 100,000.00	₱ 1,000,000.00
				₱ 2,000,000.00

The Government of the Philippines, through Philhealth has provided funds for which the contract is issued. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is in the sum of ₱ 2,000,000.00.

All interested parties are invited to the Pre-Bid Conference at the Philhealth Regional Office III – Clerks Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Hilguerson Bldg., Balibar Boulevard, Dinalupihan, Bataan City on July 20, 2012 at 1:00 P.M.

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures through Mr. Hubert Angelo L. Lo, Chairperson, Pre-Qualification, Bidding and Awards Committee (PBAC) on June 21, 2012 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00.

The bidder shall ship their bids in a sealed envelope, accompanied by the following documents: (1) Valid and current mayor's or business permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located; (2) Valid and current Philippine Government Registration Certificate; (3) Valid and current Philippine Government Tax Clearance; (4) Valid and current Philippine Government Income Tax Return; (5) Valid and current Philippine Government Audited Financial Statement; (6) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Registration; (7) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Membership, if applicable; (8) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Good Standing; (9) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Eligibility; (10) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance; (11) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Labor Laws; (12) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards; (13) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Environmental Laws; (14) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Social Welfare Laws; (15) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Tax Laws; (16) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Customs Laws; (17) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Immigration Laws; (18) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Foreign Exchange Laws; (19) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws; (20) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Money Laundering Laws; (21) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Terrorism Laws; (22) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Laws; (23) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Trafficking in Persons Laws; (24) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Child Labor Laws; (25) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Discrimination Laws; (26) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Harassment Laws; (27) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Retaliation Laws; (28) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Whistleblower Laws; (29) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Money Laundering Laws; (30) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Terrorism Laws; (31) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Laws; (32) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Trafficking in Persons Laws; (33) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Child Labor Laws; (34) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Discrimination Laws; (35) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Harassment Laws; (36) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Retaliation Laws; (37) Valid and current Philippine Government Certificate of Compliance with Anti-Whistleblower Laws.

The Government of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality or irregularity in any bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government.

The BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by ascertaining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion.

The Bid Security shall be in an amount of at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract in the following forms:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract in the Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee Confirmed by a Philippine Commercial Bank or Irrevocable Letter of Credit Issued by a Commercial or Universal Bank	Two percent (2%)	PhP 40,000.00
Surety Bond callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the Insurance Commission as authorized to issue such security	Five percent (5%)	PhP 100,000.00

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. (047) 935-0501.

We look forward to your participation in the said public bidding.

Philhealth Regional Office III has the right to reject any and all bids, reserves the right to waive any formality in the requirements for the eligibility requirements and in the evaluation. PHIC III BAC further reserves the right in rejecting any and all proposals, or declare cancellation of bidding, at any point in the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MR. HECTOR JOSEPH P. MALAZO
BAC Chairman, Philhealth Bataan

BAC – July 13, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. III-A
[illegible]
Telefax Nos.: (045) 455-3202
July 13, 2012

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following employers/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit(s).

	Name and Address of Company-Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	HONDA PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED, INC. CIP II, Brgy. Liki, Carmona City, Laguna	Mr. Tomoaki Shimizu Japanese	Sales & Marketing Manager
2.	OPTIMUM MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES, INC. CIP II, Brgy. Punta, Carmona City, Laguna	Mr. Hsu Yeung Lee/ Taiwan	Quality Control Manager
3.	DAESHIN HI-TECH PHILIPPINES, INC. CIP II, Brgy. Punta, Carmona City, Laguna	Mr. Takagai Kazuhiji Thai	Production Manager
4.	BRIDGESTONE BANDENGAN MOLDING PHILIPPINES, INC. Phase I, Toyo Road, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Takeshi Kamakawa Japanese	President
5.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD. FTI, Taguig, Cavite	Mr. Masashi Ikeda Japanese	Adviser - R & D Mold System Development
6.	MIC, INC. CIP II, Brgy. Punta, Carmona City, Laguna	Mr. Seung Ung Ryu/ Korean	General Manager
7.	MCC CHEMICALS & PLASTICS, INC. Blk. 1 Lot 1, Phase 1, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Tso Ting Lee/ Taiwan	President
8.	MAPA'S EGG CORPORATION Pacific Ave. Complex, Tirona, Cavite	Mr. Mark B. Mok/ Korean	General Manager
9.	KYC (KOG ENG CHUL) PHILIPPINES, INC. FTI, Taguig, Cavite	Mr. Min-Si Lee/ Korean	Technical Consultant
10.	DONG HAN PHILIPPINES, INC. Phase II, Ivana, Cavite	Mr. Hongsheok Kim/ Korean	General Manager
11.	CENTER PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Hsiao Yaolin/ Taiwanese	Vice President - Bank Manager
12.	SUNCHONCO PHILIPPINES, INC. Lot 6, Brgy. La Mesa Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Hanseol Hwang/ Japanese	Assistant to the General Manager - HRD Supervisor
13.	SUN TECHNOLOGY, INC. FTI, Taguig, Cavite	Mr. Akira Nakamoto/ Japanese	MD Technical Adviser
14.	LIANDE ELECTRONICS (MUNTINLUPA BRANCH), INC. PEZA, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Chan Leong Ho/ Canada	Production & Production Engineering Specialist
15.	LIANDE ELECTRONICS (MUNTINLUPA BRANCH), INC. PEZA, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Ken Shimizu/ Japanese	Cost Center Specialist
16.	FURUKAWA AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEM LOHI PHILIPPINES, INC. Lima Technology Center, Lipa City, Batangas	Mr. Hiroshi Tanioka/ Japanese	Production Management Department Manager
17.	FURUKAWA AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEM LOHI PHILIPPINES, INC. Lima Technology Center, Lipa City, Batangas	Mr. Ramon Tejada/ Japanese	Production Department Manager
18.	FURUKAWA AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEM LOHI PHILIPPINES, INC. Lima Technology Center, Lipa City, Batangas	Mr. Eugene Nanobi/ Japanese	Factory Manager
19.	EYSEN PRECISION (PHILIPPINES), INC. Lima Technology Center, Lipa City, Batangas	Mr. Satoshi Takahashi/ Japanese	VP - APC Manager
20.	EYSEN MOLDEX (PHILIPPINES), INC. Lima Technology Center, Lipa City, Batangas	Mr. Kiyoshi Shimizu/ Japanese	VP - APC Manager

If you have any information/objection in the above mentioned applications, please communicate with this Regional Director.

ALEXIS ANGLO, CESO IV
OIC – Regional Director

For a list of manufacturers, importers, and employment-related services, visit the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) website at http://www.poea.gov.ph/

World's dental experts to grace internat'l educational series

THREE OF THE world's dental experts will be featured during the 2nd Biennial of the Educational Series by the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (IAOMS)-funded and jointly organized by the Philippine College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (PCOMS) and the Philippine Academy of Implant Dentistry (PAID) on July 13-15 at the Long Center of the Philippines.

The experts who will tackle topics on Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) and Implant Dentistry are Professors Luis Vega of the United States, Tatsu Takahashi of Japan and Nick Ahlen of Singapore.

Dr. Ma. I. Ilustre-Rabuang, PCOMS President and Dr. Lee Gerald de Castro, PAID President are inviting all interested participants to avail themselves of a lower preregistration fee of Php 3,000.00 (checks may be made payable to the Philippine College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (PCOMS) Inc. – Metrobank Roosevelt- Marcos Branch, Account number 6890-1024-92. The late registration is Php 5,500.00. For more information, contact Dr. Ma Ilustre-Rabuang (0917- 839-2998) and Dr. Anna Margaret Gerodias at (632) 921-1000.

Effective Performance Management

THE EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION of the Philippines (ECOP) is running a course for managers to enable them to effectively develop performance goals, provide feedback and reinforcement, coach and review performance results.

To be conducted on July 26 this year at the ECOP boardroom, Makati City, the Performance Management System Course will focus on the importance of promoting a culture of high performance. Through this course, managers will learn to prepare strategic plans, map out performance components of their organization as well as maximize alignment of their functional areas' key result areas and performance indicators, which eventually will be the basis for assessing employee strengths and development opportunities.

To inquire, you may call 899-4647 or 897-3295, loc. 116 or e-mail: training@ecop.org.ph

IMAD: The 2012 Ateneo Law Alumni Homecoming

HOST CLASS OF 1988 JUSTIN ALL Ateneo Law School alumni to IMAD: The 2012 Ateneo Law Alumni Homecoming on 20 July 2012, Friday, from 5:30 PM onwards at the MRC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City. Emcees are Red Ollero, Jessica and Cathy Ausejo. Guest performers are soprano Rachelle Gotoshe, and stage actors Sheila Valderrama and Lorna Martinez. Dance to the music of Highway 54. Emcee is Chari Arespacochaga.

Honorees are Classes 1952, 1962, 1972 and 1982 with Nicanor Jr. and Cynthia Perez, social enterprise, and the scholarship programs of the Ateneo Law School and the Ateneo Law Alumni Association, Inc. as beneficiaries.

Tickets at only ₱1,000.00 each are available at the Ateneo Law Alumni Office. Reservations cannot honored at (0920) 537-7602. Raffle prizes await lucky ticket holders.

Celebrate and Shake it Ateneo!

PRESIDENT AQUINO INAUGURATES BERTH 6 AT MICT

President Aquino (2nd L-R) recently inaugurated the newly constructed Berth 6 facility of the International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) at MICT. The President was joined by the DOTC Secretary Mar Roxas, PPA General Manager Juan C. Sta. Ana (extreme left), ICTSI President and Chairperson Enrique Razon, Jr. (3rd L-R) and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim (4th L-R) among others. The group does the ceremonial ribbon cutting before the newly delivered Post Panamax quay cranes and other cargo handling equipment for the newly inaugurated Berth 6. The new container handling equipment is part of the ICTSI's investment in Berth 6 to further improve/ enhance the cargo handling services at MICT.

Read in the newspaper JOB Market
When every you find Sunday, the best, for workers, inquirer.com/ the job Market package at 09408 to 2161

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VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CARAGA
Butuan City

ERRATUM

In the first publication of the advertisement of DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – CARAGA for Invitation to Bid for Diet Making Cold Works:

CR-2012-06	Construction of Mine District Hospital
CR-2012-07	Upgrading of Adelaida Municipal Hospital
CR-2012-08	Upgrading of Las Nieves Municipal Hospital
CR-2012-09	Upgrading of Provincial Hospital (Old Session Building, Doctors Quarter and Pharmacy Building)
CR-2012-10	Proposed Construction of Hemodialysis Clinic Hospital
CR-2012-11	Proposed Construction of Mother and Child Hospital
CR-2012-12	Proposed Upgrading of Bayugan Municipal Hospital
CR-2012-13	Proposed Construction of Provincial Health Office
CR-2012-14	Proposed Upgrading of Rural Health Unit (RHU)
CR-2012-15	Proposed Upgrading of Barangay Health Station (BHS)
CR-2012-16	Proposed Construction of Provincial Health Office
CR-2012-17	Proposed Upgrading of Rural Health Unit (RHU)
CR-2012-18	Proposed Upgrading of Barangay Health Station (BHS)
CR-2012-19	Proposed Upgrading of Provincial Hospital
CR-2012-20	Proposed Upgrading of Provincial Hospital
CR-2012-21	Proposed Upgrading of Provincial Hospital
CR-2012-22	Proposed Upgrading of Provincial Hospital

Walang makapupuno ng iyong sapatos, Mang Pidol.

Hindi ka namin malilimutan.

RODOLFO "DOLPHY" VERA QUIZON, SR.
1928-2012

Labis kaming pinalad na sa iyong huling mga taon, naging bahagi kami ng iyong pagbibigay kaunlaran at kami'y naging iyong mga Kapatid.

5